The Baptist Record

JOURNAL OF THE MISSISSIPPI BAPTIST CONVENTION

Thursday, May 3, 1990 — Published Since 1877



Senior Adult Day: May 6

Carolyn and Lou Hendrix of Pittsburgh, Pa., enjoy spending time together on common hobbies. Active members of Pittsburgh Baptist Church, the Hendrixes typify the theme for Senior Adult Day 1990, "Transitions in Mature Marriage." Senior Adult Day, suggested for observance May 6 on the Southern Baptist Convention [illegible] sponsored by the Baptist Sunday School Board's [illegible]. Photo by Jim Veneman.

SOUTHERN BAPTIST HISTORICAL LIBRARY AND ARCHIVES
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Baptist aid will center on evangelism, Bibles

BUDAPEST, Hungary (BP) — The $1 million appropriation approved by the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board for work in Eastern Europe will be used mainly for direct evangelism, evangelistic materials, and Bibles.

Top board administrators worked out general outlines of the aid program during a two-day meeting in early March in Budapest, Hungary, with Baptist representatives from seven Eastern European countries. Specifics of the aid will be completed by Southern Baptist representatives in the months ahead as they consult with Baptist leaders.

The board also is exploring ways to use additional funds in Eastern Europe donated by Southern Baptists for hunger relief. That includes a plan announced earlier for $1 million in hunger and a medical assistance in Romania.

The immediate financial help for evangelism will be [illegible] possible, by sending Southern Baptists [illegible] career and short-term personnel, particularly workers [illegible] speak an Eastern European language. More than $500,000 in additional needs were identified for later response as funds become available, said Keith Parker, the board's director for Europe.

"Many opportunities for short-term service will be developed in coming months, including needs for construction terms, partnership missions teams to do evangelism, and others," said Parker.

Foreign Mission Board President R. Keith Parks was accompanied to the Budapest meeting by several members of the agency's Global Strategy Group, which oversees mission work in 117 countries, and administrators and representatives involved with work in Eastern Europe.

Southern Baptist help in Eastern Europe, Parks said, will be based on biblical principles and focused on evangelism that results in churches.

Bibles continue to be the biggest need in the Soviet Union, where editions in 50 languages are needed, said Gregori Komendant, newly elected president of the Union of Evangelical Christians-Baptists there. "Our priority No. 1 is increasing religious literature," he said.

Man or woman

"The issue is, 'Has God called you?' "

"What difference would it make in your life if you really believed in the resurrection of Jesus Christ? And I'm here to tell you this morning that the impact of the reality of the resurrection on my life is the primary reason I do what I do." With these words Ann Graham Lotz opened her message to an audience of about 250 in Southeastern Seminary's Appleby Chapel.

Mrs. Lotz, the daughter of Billy Graham, was invited by Steve Griffith, president of the student organization, Conservative Evangelical Fellowship, to speak on the topic of "Women in Ministry." Griffith said, "CEF brought Mrs. Lotz to campus because of her reputation as a prayer warrior and a biblically-based teacher. It really had little to do with the fact that her father is Billy Graham. We knew that she would be trustworthy on the subject. We also knew that whatever she said on "women in ministry" the focus would be Jesus Christ."

Mrs. Lotz spoke from John chapter 20, verses 17 and 18. She told the crowd, "I feel more comfortable with your Bibles open and I'll be referring to passages from John, Matthew, and also Ephesians." She explained that she felt her authority was biblically based. Throughout her message she cited the example given when Jesus sent Mary Magdalene to tell his disciples that he was alive after his resurrection. She said, "There was never any question from the first minute Steve Griffith called me. I knew the message would be on the resurrection; that is why I'm a woman in ministry, because of the difference it makes that Jesus is real and he is alive."

In her message she stated, "I believe that one of the primary things wrong with the churches in America is that we have men and women in the pulpit, men and women in the echelons of the seminary, men and women teaching the Bible, and they have never been called of God to be there!"

She recounted how she had been treated harshly in one of her early speaking engagements where men were in the audience. She said several men in the audience actually turned their chair backs toward her to let her know their feelings about women preaching.

She said she returned home troubled, feeling compelled to seek God's face and guidance. She said, "I've never had a problem with women in ministry as I was, because I knew God had commissioned me. But I was having a problem with their problem."

While seeking, she again received God's affirmation through scripture, and further sought understanding from him about her teaching or preaching before men. She said, "Lord, for my own information, and for the information of others, what about I Timothy 2:12? Can you give some insight there because I know I will be asked? And this is what the Lord gave me. I believe God has revealed to me that God has forbidden me to hold a position of, for instance, a senior pastor in a church, or to be on a board of deacons or elders where I would be in a position of authority over men, making decisions, enforcing discipline that puts me in authority over them. So I feel forbidden by God to take on a position like that."

She explained additionally, "When I speak, if I speak with authority, it is the authority of the Scriptures, it's the authority of the Holy Spirit. But I stand before you unashamed, simply a woman, not with authority, a woman under authority, a woman under the authority of my Lord, under the authority of my husband, under the authority of my pastor, under the authority in this particular case of Dr. Drummond and Steve Griffith (President of CEF)."

She told the audience, "What a wonderful thing to be commissioned by God, to give out the news that Jesus Christ lives, and that he is Lord! God forbid that anyone should ever tell a woman that she can not preach, that she can not teach, and she can not give out God's Word if she has been commissioned! The issue for me is not whether or not women should be in ministry. The issue is whether those in ministry, men or women, have been called by God to be there."

"I would challenge you to acknowledge that women as well as men can be under compulsion. Compelled by the love of God, locked in by the truth that we know, as we live in his world that we have to give verbal expression, not just to our faith, but to our faith in the Word of God. And I seek very carefully not to give out my opinions or my ideas, I seek to give out God's Word. Everytime I speak, I will ask people to open their Bibles that I might give out his Word. I believe that is my commission as a woman in ministry."

She expressed to them that her compulsion was strong. She said, "I think Jeremiah can sum up how I feel as a woman in ministry, 'His Word is in my heart like a burning fire, shut up in my bones, I am weary of holding it in, indeed I can not, indeed I will not.' "

Speaking to the men in the crowd she stirred them as she said, "I challenge you, what woman do you know in ministry? Will you have lunch with her today? When you meet her in a class, will you ask her, when were you commissioned by God in your ministry? If she answers quite honestly, on such and such a date, from such and such a scripture God called me to be in the ministry, then what will you do to encourage her and to support her to do what you can to see that she complies fully with the commission she has been given by God?"

As Mrs. Lotz spoke she explained what she felt was the heart of the issue for anyone in ministry. She said to the attentive crowd, "If you have been commissioned by God to be in ministry, I will encourage you, support you, I will do what I can to see that you comply fully to the commission that God has given you. My overall challenge this morning, not just will you acknowledge that God has called sisters into the ministry and that they are commissioned by him? Would you examine your own commissoning by God? Have you been called by God to be in ministry? Can you date it? Can you give a verse that backs that date up? And if you cannot, you're just going on a feeling or what someone else said you ought to be doing. Would you get down on your face before God today and ask him to call you from his Word that you might never doubt the fact that you are in the ministry for no other reason than that you are commissioned by God and you are complying with his command?"

Speaking after the meeting Mrs. Lotz clarified her feelings about her personal ministry, "I don't feel that God has called me to go on a campaign to put women in the pulpit or to call women into the ministry. Personally I feel that God has called me to give out his Word in a unique way so that people, through his Word, can hear God speak in their own lives, in their own hearts, that they might know God."

I feel like my first responsibility is my family. Certainly my husband, certainly my children. God called me into ministry. If I am obedient and very careful to follow the leading of the Holy Spirit he dovetails the two."

Mrs. Lotz said that she started her present speaking ministry after much prayer and Bible study. She said, "Two and a half years ago I established what I believe he had called me to do and I called it Angel Ministries. I called it Angel Ministries because angels in scripture are messengers of God or servants of God, the psalmist said, that "doest his pleasure" and an angel never went anywhere, except he was sent; never said anything, except God told him what to say."

"I am simply to go where he sends me, and speak to the people he puts in front of me, and give out the message that he puts on my heart. So it requires a lot of prayer to determine which opportunities I receive are from him."

"As far as women being in ministry, I just encourage women and men to examine whether or not they are called, if they are called by God. You know if you're called. You know it from Scripture, you know it from your heart, you know it from circumstances, just know it in every fiber of your being. You just know when you're called of God to do this. And if you've been called, then to be obedient and to follow through."

After the meeting Steve Griffith stated he was pleased that Mrs. Lotz had given her time to come to Southeastern to speak to CEF about the topic "Women in Ministry." Griffith said, "Wow! It was unbelievable. The Lord really blessed our campus today. I think that, obviously, she had prayed diligently about what to say and the Lord gave her the words. She spoke with God's authority. I think she spelled it out pretty clearly that God has a place for women in ministry within biblical guidelines."

This article is from a news release prepared by the Office of Public Relations, Southeastern.

Editorials . . . by Don McGregor

The special session

Gov. Ray Mabus has called a special session of the Mississippi Legislature beginning on June 18. The topic for consideration will be the funding of the state's new education package that was signed into law during the session just closed.

This is not the first time that a special session of the Legislature has been called immediately following the Southern Baptist Convention. It will be at a time when many pastors will have just returned from that convention. Many may have planned vacation times following the convention.

The word from those acquainted with matters at the capitol is that a state-operated lottery will be introduced during the special session as a means of helping to finance the education package.

The lottery concept has been defeated already this year by the Legislature. We don't need it anymore now than during the session just completed. This week the **Baptist Record** is running on page 5 list of senators and representatives so that citizens can see how their legislators voted on important matters.

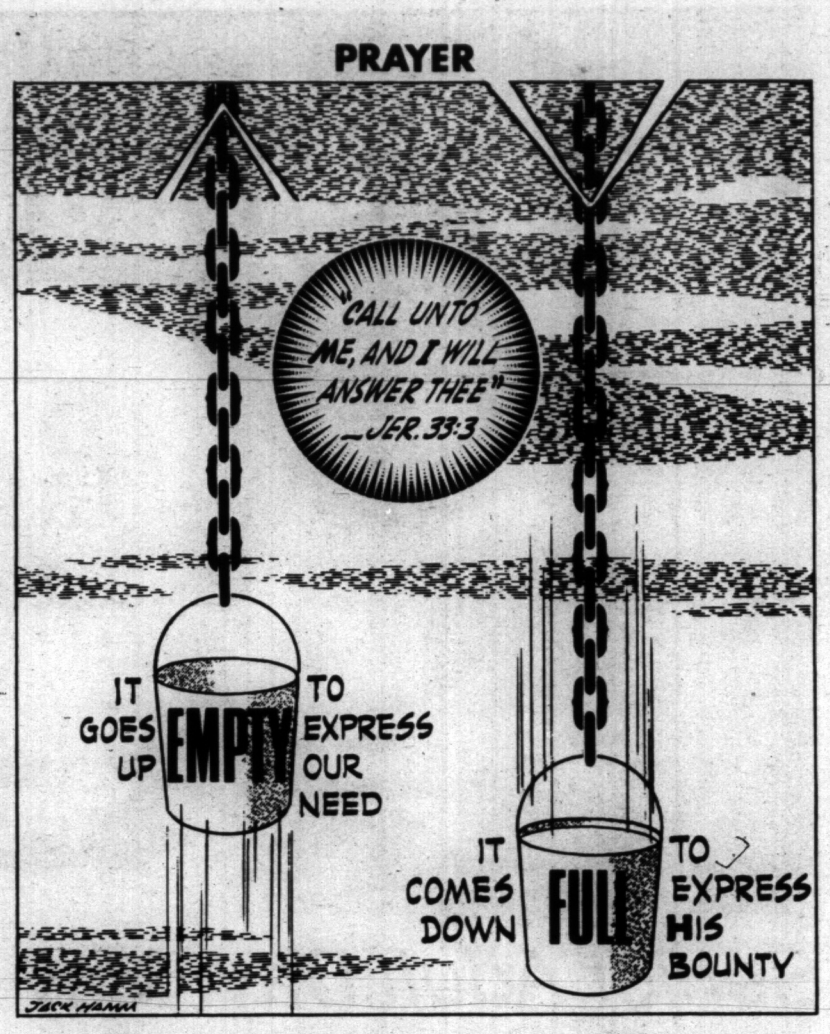
In the meantime, it would be well to be showing support for those 27 senators who kept the lottery concept from passing and for those 32 representatives who voted against it.

The senators were Jim Bean, Hattiesburg; Irb Benjamin, Rienzi; Barbara Blanton, Brandon; Buddy Bond, Carthage; Hob Bryan, Amory; Bill Canon, Columbus; Glen Deweese, Meridian; Jack Gordon, Okolona; Pud Graham, New Albany; George Guerieri, Southaven; Bill Harpole, Starkville; Billy Harvey, Carson; Alan Heflin, Forest; John Keeton, Grenada; Hainon Miller, Greenville; Cecil Mills, Clara; Ollie Mohamed, Belzoni; Johnny Morgan, Oxford; Ronnie Musgrove, Batesville; Bill Renick, Ripley; Cy Rosenblatt, Jackson; Vincent Scoper, Laurel; Wootsie Tate, Picayune; Billy Thames, Mize; Richard White, Terry; and Roger Wicker, Tupelo.

Rob Smith, Richland, had been called away from the floor at the time of the vote and later expressed his opposition to the lottery.

The representatives are D. R. Anderson, Ellisville; Billy Bowles, Houston; Eric Clark, Taylorsville; Dorothy Cole, Richton; Raymond Comans, Decatur; Roy Dabbs, Meridian; Ted Foster, Pontotoc; Delma Furniss, Rena Lara; Don Grist, Vardaman; David Hallbrook, Belzoni; Curtis Holston, Poplarville; Tommy Horne, Meridian; Dick Livingston, Pulaski; Billy McCoy, Rienzi; Joe McElwain, Ripley; Butch McMillan, Kosciusko; Mike Mills, Aberdeen; Bobby Moody, Louisville; Andy Morris, New Albany; Harvey Moss, Corinth; Clem Nettles, Jayess; John Pennebaker, New Albany; Barney Schoby, Natchez; Eloise Scott, Tupelo; Cecil Simmons, Maben; Miriam Simmons, Columbia; Gary Staples, Laurel; Johnny Stringer, Montrose; Joe Taylor, Waynesboro; Gus Townsend, Laurel; Robert Vince, Sandy Hook; and Mack Lloyd Wadkins, Iuka.

There will be tremendous pressure on these people to change their votes. The Jackson **Clarion-Ledger** has already started the pressure. The legislators will need our help. We owe it to them. Let's not fail them.



A day of prayer

We surely don't need a day of prayer to remind us to pray, but, on the other hand, neither should we fail to note a day of prayer. In case there are those who don't make prayer a part of their daily lives, the National Day of Prayer on May 3 should serve to remind them of the necessity of regular contact with the Lord, their creator.

Naturally, prayer should not be a once-a-year situation or a Sunday only situation. It can be easily forgotten, however; and the National Day of Prayer can remind all of us of the importance of prayer.

The Bible, of course, is filled with exortations to pray and with the benefits of praying. Praying is being in contact with the Master, and that surely is a basic condition. Paul, in his first letter to the Thessalonians, wrote, "Be joyful always: pray continually; give thanks in all circumstances, for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus" NIV.

So, prayer is a matter that should not be neglected. Today, May 3, is the National Day of Prayer. For that person who may have been neglecting his life to that extent, it is not too early to correct the condition.

And an almost related subject is the need for Bibles for the Soviet Union and other areas of Eastern Europe. They have not been totally banned in Russia and perhaps not in other areas of Eastern Europe; but as freedom sweeps those nations, religious freedom becomes a reality also; and the need for Bibles increases.

Those wishing to contribute to sending Bibles to Europe and other sections of the Soviet Union can be assured that their contributions will be used as directed by sending them thrugh the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board. The address is Foreign Mission Board, P. O. Box 6767, Richmond, Virginia 23230.

Bibles may also be distributed through the American Bible Society, 1865 Broadway, New York, NY 10023, and the Baptist World Alliance, 6733 Curran St., McLean, VA. 22101-3804.

These are exciting days as peoples are rising up to demand freedom. As would be expected, such demands create problems as governments are reluctant to move too fast. In troubled times the Bible can provide assurances that are needed and point the way when the times come to move freely.

That is a lesson that we need here as well as do those in the areas to which we may want to send the Bibles.

Guest opinion . . .

"Here's Hope" spreads hope

By Guy Henderson

Reports continue to come in announcing the results of the 1990 Simultaneous Revivals in Mississippi. An estimate is that 1500 churches took part in the Here's Hope meetings in March and April.

Preparation began in 1986 and was as thorough as any simultaneous meeting ever held. Steering Committees from the local church, the association, the state, and the nation were organized. Resource persons and associational evangelism directors contacted churches and pastors for participation. Prayer calendars, Daniel prayer teams, and solemn assemblies prepared the hearts of the people. Sunday School led out with People Search and Scripture distribution, and every department in the Baptist Building geared to revival preparation.

Initial reports indicate there will be more than 1,500 conversions and 7,500 rededications. However, this hardly tells the story. Mike Russell and First Church, Lauderdale, report three families with three conversions in each, and they had 19 to make professions of faith.

Winston Association had 17 churches in revival and reported 50 rededications and 10 professions of faith. Then consider the story of the Jimmy Crumpton family in Ellisville as reported by pastor Ralph Graves.

"The three children of the Crumpton family (Randy, Andy, and Mandy) have been riding the Calvary Church van to church activities for four or five years. About six months ago, Mandy made a profession of faith; but her mother discouraged her baptism at that time. During our recent revival (April 1-4) she came forward again. Brother James Taylor (our evangelist) and I went to their home and shared the plan of salvation with Mandy in the presence of her parents and two brothers. The two brothers made professions of faith on the last night of the revival. When the children got on the van the next Sunday night, Mandy happily told me that her parents were coming to church that night. They did come, and the Holy Spirit spoke to their hearts. Both parents responded at the invitation time; she came for rededication, and he came on profession of faith. It was indeed a time of rejoicing for what God had done. These four members of this family were part of some 16 or 17 who made professions of faith during the revival, and a baptismal service was scheduled for Easter Sunday night. At the morning service that day (Easter) Mr. Crumpton's mother came for baptism. That night I had the joy of baptizing 15 people, and among them were the five members of the Crumpton family. All six members of this family, along with many others who made decisions during the days of revival, were in attendance at the midweek service on April 18. This was the greatest revival that Calvary Church has ever had. 'To God Be the Glory!' "

Roy Myers in George County reported nine churches in revival, 35 conversions, and 117 other decisions. Chickasaw Association had 20 saved and 101 other decisions as reported by Evangelism Director David Kendall.

Greg Herndon, pastor of Troy Church, Pontotoc County, kicked off Here's Hope with a one-day soul-winning workshop and followed this with nine weeks of visitation. Nine people received Christ during these visits — all before the revival. During the revival a mother transferred her membership; and then her husband, two sons, and a daughter were all saved. A husband and wife came for baptism from another denomination; and another couple was saved — all entire families. Pastor Herndon declared that visitation is continuing.

Simpson County Baptists report 31 churches in Here's Hope with 102 baptisms and 293 other decisions. Floyd Higginbotham, pastor of Pleasant Hill in Lincoln Association says, "I highly recommend the preparation materials to any church. If you follow them with prayer and work you will see good things happen." Pleasant Hill had a total of 28 decisions. Higginbotham also said, "I feel people make a mistake in stopping the revival meetings on Wednesday. We had five professions of faith on Thursday night and our largest crowd was on Friday night. The building was filled up. It was the first time that had happened during revival. The highlight was the prayer vigil. This caused our people to get in touch with God. That's what revival is all about."

Bogue Chitto Church, Darnell Archie, pastor, reports the stirring story of an 18-year-old man from another community. He drove past the Bogue Chitto Church and saw the lighted sign publicizing the revival. He felt a strong impulse to go in. He turned into the parking lot, drove through it and started out. At the next block, he turned around and went back to the church and went in. He sat on the back row. When the invitation was given he immediately stepped out and went to the pastor weeping and saying, "I want to be saved." He was born again and was baptized on Friday night of the revival.

Another night a young man gave his testimony of how he was a church member but lost. Following the evening service as all the people were leaving and the pastor was turning off the light, he noticed a mother and her son still sitting in the sanctuary. The son had been saved the night before. Thinking there might be a problem, the pastor asked if he could help. The woman said, "The same thing that happened to the man giving his testimony happened to me." The pastor took them to his office and she received Jesus Christ as Lord of her life. She was baptized on Sunday morning.

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The Second Front Page

The Baptist Record

JOURNAL OF THE MISSISSIPPI BAPTIST CONVENTION

Thursday, May 3, 1990 Published Since 1877

Conservatives take control of Southern Seminary board

By David Wilkinson and Pat Cole

LOUISVILLE, KY. (BP) — In a shift of power, "conservatives" gained control of Southern Seminary's board of trustees April 23-25.

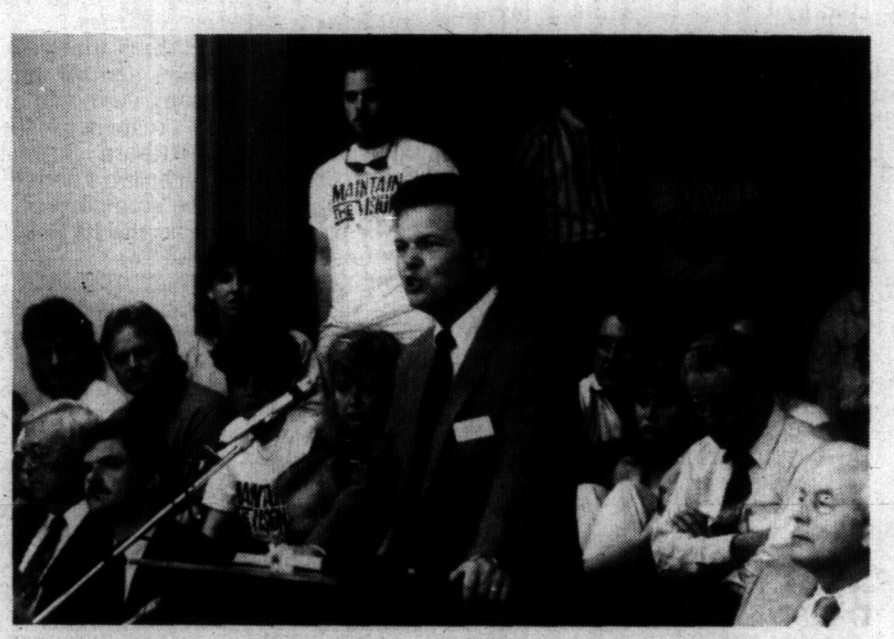
At their annual meeting in Louisville, Ky., "conservatives" captured three of the board's four offices, strengthened their position on the board's executive committee and used a new working majority to approve through a variety of contested motions.

In a series of unprecedented actions, trustees also:

— Blocked the election of three people recommended by the trustee executive committee to fill trustee positions vacated during the year. The trustees would have served only until new trustees were elected by the Southern Baptist Convention in June.

— Adopted a resolution on a social issue, declaring abortion "the greatest moral issue faced by Christians today."

The resolution, presented by David Miller of Heber Springs, Ark., asked all seminary employees to "desist from publicly espousing the right of a woman to have an abortion except where the physical life of the mother is in danger" and encouraged them to join trustees in working for anti-abortion legislation. After Larry Adams of Oklahoma City requested a roll call vote "so folks back home will know how we voted," the resolution was adopted by a vote of 32 to 24.



Several of the more than 300 students who attended the annual meeting of Southern Seminary trustees looked over the shoulder of Trustee John Allen of Mississippi as he addressed the board. Trustees closed the meeting to spectators when they began discussing personnel matters.

— Established a policy to allow students to use tape recorders in seminary classes.

The seminary previously had no policy prohibiting use of tape recorders, leaving the question to the prerogative of each professor. The motion by Michael Harris of Elizabethtown, Ky., was approved, 30 to 19, despite opposition from several

(Continued on page 4)

Vines announces key SBC appointments

By Dan Martin

JACKSONVILLE, Fla. (BP) — Appointments to four key committees to serve during the annual meeting of the Southern Baptist Convention, June 12-14, in the Louisiana Superdome in New Orleans, have been announced by SBC President Jerry Vines.

Vines announced the appointment of the Committee on Committees and the Resolutions, Credentials, and Tellers committees April 27.

The SBC bylaws require the SBC president to announce the appointments "at least 45 days in advance of the annual meeting."

The bylaws also require the president to appoint the Committee on Committees and the Resolutions Committee "in conference with" the two vice presidents, and the Credentials Committee "in consultation with" the vice presidents. The Tellers Committee is appointed "in consultation with" the SBC registration secretary.

The vice presidents are Junior Hill, an evangelist from Hartselle, Ala., first vice president, and Ernest Myers, executive director of the Nevada Baptist Convention, Reno, second vice president. The current registration secretary is Lee Porter of Nashville.

Vines told Baptist Press he is pleased with the appointments. "I have kept my two commitments in these appointments. I have not knowingly appointed anybody who believes there are errors in the Bible, and these appointments represent the best Southern Baptists I could find.

"To my knowledge, there is nobody appointed here who has a personal axe to grind, or has a personal, private agenda. These are just good solid Jesus-loving, Bible-believing, denominationally faithful Baptists."

He said he consulted on several occasions with the vice presidents, and encouraged them to make any suggestions they might have. He also said he had talked with Porter and encouraged the resolutions secretary to write a letter containing suggestions, which he did.

"I would encourage Southern Baptists to pray for these people that they might take their responsibilities seriously and that they might be effective in the work which they have been assigned to do," Vines said.

COMMITTEE ON COMMITTEES

The committee has 66 members, two from each of the 33 state or regional conventions qualified for representation on SBC entities.

SBC Bylaw 21 says the Committee on Committees "shall nominate all special committees authorized during session of the convention not otherwise provided for." The usual responsibility of the committee is to nominate members of the Committee on Nominations, which, in turn, nominates trustees to serve on the 24 national entities of the SBC.

Vines named Howard Gates, pastor of First Church, Fort Walton Beach, Fla., as chairman.

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Convention board hires consultant, votes for Zimbabwe partnership

The Mississippi Baptist Convention Board's Executive Committee hired a consultant in its Sunday School Department and promoted an employee in computer service.

The committee, which met in Jackson Friday, also voted to begin a missions partnership with the Baptists of Zimbabwe in Africa, and agreed to purchase 20 acres of land adjacent to Central Hills Baptist Retreat at Kosciusko.

The new employee is Linda Reeves, who will serve as preschool and children's consultant in the Sunday School Department. Keith Wilkinson is director.

Miss Reeves, 45, has been minister of childhood education at First Church, Dothan, Ala, since June, 1983. Earlier, she taught art and was girls' basketball coach in Tulsa, Okla., was a manager for Meribee Needlecraft in Texas and Oklahoma, and served as a field director for Girl Scouts in West Virginia.

She is a graduate of Howard Payne University, Brownwood, Texas, and earned the master of religious education degree from Southwestern Seminary in Fort Worth.

On retirement of Judd Allen last year, Randy Tompkins of the Sunday School Department, who was preschool and children's consultant, took Allen's responsibilities as general administration and associational consultant.

Patricia (Trish) Shotts, 30, was promoted to manager of Computer Information Services. She was computer analyst, programmer for the Management Information Department. The Executive Committee voted to reorganize the department and place that work within the Business Office, with William Maxwell, director, accounting and personnel services, as supervisor.

Mrs. Shotts is a graduate of Mississippi College in data processing and has worked at the Convention Board since September, 1982.

The partnership with Zimbabwe is the result of an invitation from Zimbabwean Baptists, the missionaries in Zimbabwe, and the Foreign Mission Board. Executive Director Bill Causey told the committee that the project would likely resemble the recent partnership with Japan where evangelistic teams witnessed and worked in revivals in Japanese churches.

The 20 acres adjacent to Central Hills Baptist Retreat cost $600 per acre. Central Hills acreage now totals 420. In other business the committee agreed to permit lump sum retirement benefits to be paid on request of the retiree without approval of the committee.



Reeves



Shotts

Foreign Board sends first full-time workers to USSR

By Art Toalston

RICHMOND, Va. (BP) — Southern Baptists are assigning veteran missionaries George and Veda Rae Lozuk as their first full-time workers to the Soviet Union. He is the son of a Russian immigrant.

The Lozuks, of Fort Worth and Corpus Christi, Texas, respectively, are among some 25 full-time workers who have been selected or are being sought by the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board for full-time positions in Eastern Europe. The board's Eastern Europe mission has worked with Baptists there for some 20 years; ten career missionaries and two other full-time workers now are assigned to the area.

Deploying additional personnel is one of the many ways Southern Baptists are working to undergird Eastern European Baptists in the wake of monumental events that have given the region hope for freedom.

Altogether, the Foreign Mission Board has earmarked more than $2.5 million for the region. A total of $1 million is being used for Bibles, gospel films and other resources to help Eastern European Baptists evangelize their nations and strengthen their churches. Another $1 million, from Southern Baptist hunger relief donations, is buying seeds and related supplies for needy Romanian farmers. More than $500,000 from the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering for foreign missions will bolster such projects as the first Baptist seminary in Moscow and Albanian gospel broadcasts.

Southern Baptist volunteers already are lining up to assist in the region. Four teams of college students will help renovate a Baptist church in Leningrad. Several Southern Baptist churches are forming "sister" relationships with Eastern European congregations. And a California woman is leading in a food drive for 2,000 needy Romanian families.

"It's encouraging that Southern Baptists are translating world events into spiritual and mission challenges," commented R. Keith Parks, Foreign Mission Board president. Organizing Southern Baptist efforts in the still-unstable countries of Eastern Europe is a formidable task, Parks said.

"Baptist leaders there and our missionaries are functioning in sort of a constant overload.

"People are praying, people are giving, and I expect us to see some significant results in the weeks and months ahead," he said. But he cautioned that "we need to move wisely in order to accomplish something that is lasting and will be a foundation for future growth."

The Lozuks will begin work in Moscow after wrapping up their duties in South America, where they have worked 34 years, and after three months of intensive Russian language study. Lozuk currently is associate to the director of Southern Baptist work in Spanish-speaking South America.

His father, Sylvester Nicholas Lozuk, came to the United States to work for several years before the 1917 Bolshevik Revolution and never was able to return to his Russian

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Conservatives take control of Southern Seminary board

(Continued from page 3)

trustees and seminary President Roy L. Honeycutt, who voiced concern about "moving into the area of telling a professor how he or she can conduct class."

During more than four hours behind closed doors, trustees debated possible responses to a 16-page document prepared by trustee Jerry Johnson of Aurora, Colo., accusing Honeycutt and several faculty members of "doctrinal infidelity," along with other charges. Titled "The Cover-up at Southern Seminary," the material was received by most trustees the week before the annual board meeting and was then published during the meeting by **The Southern Baptist Advocate**, a "conservative" Baptist publication (see related story).

Although Johnson's document was being discussed by the board's executive committee, trustees approved a motion from John Michael of Louisville, Ky., to move the issue to the full board for consideration, thus preempting any recommendation by the executive committee. After discussion, trustees then voted to postpone action on the matter until the next annual board meeting in 1991.

Johnson also introduced a motion on the seminary's governing doctrinal statement, the Abstract of Principles, that sought to interpret the document's statement on the inspiration of Scripture in light of an 1888 book by Basil Manly, Jr. Manly, one of the seminary's original faculty members, is credited with principal authorship of the Abstract. Late in the meeting's last session, however, trustees approved Johnson's request to "postpone indefinitely" his earlier motion.

Also in executive session, trustees approved separate statements critical of two faculty members while also adopting a motion expressing appreciation for Honeycutt and "the method in which (he) has handled the affairs of the seminary."

A resolution adopted after debate expressed disapproval of Christian ethics professor Paul Simmons' activities related to abortion. Harm done to the seminary by "continued activities in this area," the resolution added, "may be considered sufficient grounds for dismissal."

Simmons, who has taught at Southern Seminary since 1970, has been under fire for several years for his views on abortion.

Another action requested Honeycutt to express the board's "deep concern" to church history Professor E. Glenn Hinson for "intemperate comments about controversial issues which negatively affect the public perceptions of Southern Seminary."

According to several trustees interviewed after the meeting, most of the criticism came in response to a newspaper account of Hinson's remarks during a series of presentations at a Tennessee church. Following a series of critical letters, Hinson submitted a letter to Honeycutt clarifying some of the comments attributed to him and apologizing for any misunderstanding or embarrassment.

Hinson has drawn criticism in recent years for his criticism of "conservative" leaders and for his advocacy of shifting distribution of funds to denominational boards and agencies away from the national Cooperative Program unified budget to state Baptist conventions.

In addition to Hinson's letter, trustees received a copy of a letter from Simmons offering to continue to disassociate his views in public appearances from any official position of the seminary, to refuse media interviews dealing with abortion and "to avoid inflammatory rhetoric in responding to those who take contrary positions."

During the first few hours of executive session, more than 300 students who had been asked to leave the crowded meeting room maintained a vigil outside, with many of them praying and singing hymns. Dozens wore "Maintain the Vision" T-shirts as a sign of support for the school and its faculty.

Invited by trustee chairman Alton Butler of Pensacola, Fla., to speak to the trustees, student body President Ellen Sechrest assured the board of the students' concern and prayers, noting, "Our future is in your hands."

In the election of officers, trustees chose not to challenge the nomination of Sam H. McMahon Jr., who had served during the past year as first vice chairman and was the only "moderate" proposed by the nominating committee. McMahon, chairman of the board of Southeastern Commercial Management Corp. in Charlotte, N.C., was elected chairman with only five trustees registering "no" votes.

Other new officers are W. Wayne Allen, pastor of Briarwood Church, Cordova, Tenn., first vice chairman; Larry L. Adams, administrator of the Baptist Retirement Center, Oklahoma City; second vice chairman; and John G. Hicks, a Louisville attorney, secretary.

"Conservatives," however, successfully challenged two of three persons recommended by the nominating committee for re-election to the board's executive committee. **William W. Causey**, executive director of the Mississippi Baptist Convention, Jackson, defeated "conservatives' " nominee James M. Bullock, pastor of Colgate Church, Sellersburg, Ind., by a single vote. Two other people recommended for re-election, Ken Hall, a Louisville layman, and John Wallace, a retired pastor from Lexington, Ky., were replaced respectively by Bullock, who was nominated again, and by Carroll Karkalits, a layman from Lake Charles, La. "Conservatives" picked up another executive committee member when Richton, Miss., pastor **John Allen** defeated Louisville layman Fred Pfannenshmidt in an election to fill a vacated position.

Trustees also chose to deal with all faculty personnel recommendations in executive session. Although some recommendations reportedly received opposition, each was approved. Actions included:

— Electing Doris Ann Borchert as associate professor of Christian education with tenure.

— Promoting Kathryn N. Chapman to professor of childhood education and six people from assistant to associate professor: John H. Dickson, church music; Donoso S. Escobar, social work; Molly T. Marshall-Green, theology; Lloyd L. Mims, church music; Pamela L. Scalise, Old Testament; and Dan R. Stiver, Christian philosophy.

— Naming two faculty members to endowed chairs: Bill J. Leonard, William Walker Brooks professor of American Christianity, and Gerald R. Borchert, J. Rupert Coleman professor of New Testament interpretation.

— Granting a two-year leave of absence for David S. Dockery, assistant professor of New Testament, who will be chief editor of academic books at the Baptist Sunday School Board's Broadman Press in Nashville.

In other actions, trustees:

— Approved changes to the seminary charter that are intended to clarify procedures for electing new trustees and to help ensure the seminary's tax exempt status.

— Adopted a 1990-91 operating budget of $15,742,484, a 5.3 percent increase over the current year. The budget provides for a 2 percent salary increase for faculty and staff.

— Approved an $8.15 million deferred maintenance plan for the campus, including proposals for generating the required funds.

Honeycutt responds to trustee's charges

By Pat Cole

LOUISVILLE, Ky. (BP) — In an emotional response to accusations he does not believe the Bible, Southern Baptist Theological Seminary President Roy L. Honeycutt told the school's trustees "the Word of God has been the dynamic and integrating focus for my life."

Prior to the Louisville, Ky., seminary's April 23-25 trustee meeting, trustee Jerry Johnson, pastor of Central Church in Aurora, Colo., circulated a 16-page document, titled "The Cover-up at Southern Seminary," which accused Honeycutt and several professors of "doctrinal infidelity" and other charges.

Honeycutt said that many of Johnson's accusations against him and the professors were dealt with in 1987 in the seminary's response to the concerns of the Southern Baptist Peace Committee. Johnson's article, however, accused the seminary of a cover-up in connection with its Peace Committee response.

Johnson charged that Honeycutt's writings in commentaries on four Old Testament books "create problems for all Bible-believing Southern Baptists."

Citing a variety of illustrations from commentaries, Johnson wrote that Honeycutt "scoffs at the historical reality" of some passages and "displays a bias against the supernatural in the Bible."

"One would have to be as blind as a mole not to see that Dr. Honeycutt just does not believe the Bible," he wrote.

Although trustees voted in executive session to postpone actions concerning Johnson's document until next year, Honeycutt requested permission to speak briefly about his views on the Bible.

In his response, Honeycutt told trustees he could not "allow a year to lapse (before the next annual meeting) when the issue has been raised about whether or not I believe the Bible," adding, "I consider that issue second only in seriousness to the question of whether or not I believe in Jesus Christ."

In his article, Johnson accused Honeycutt of "scoffing" at Scripture. Noting that "the word scoff means to deride, mock, ridicule or scorn," Honeycutt said: "My love and reverence for the Bible flow so deeply through my life I am offended by the suggestion that I take such an attitude toward the Word of God."

Honeycutt emphasized he had "never known a time when I did not read the Bible" and "seek to live out of its revelation." The 63-year-old Old Testament scholar also stressed that he had spent 44 years in a serious study of the Bible in an academic setting.

"It was the Bible which brought me the good news of Jesus in salvation, voiced my call to ministry, and still sustains daily through circumstances such as these accusations," he said.

Claiming that one criticism hinged on the interpretation of six Hebrew words, Honeycutt said, "You can tell me you disagree with my interpretation of Scripture, but please don't tell me you disagree with my belief in the Bible."

In response, students in the room and most trustees responded with a standing ovation.

Following Honeycutt's statement, Johnson told reporters he was "not satisfied" with Honeycutt's explanation. He said he stands "completely and totally behind" the truthfulness of the charges he made in his document.

He also expressed confidence "the future will vindicate my article."

"God is trying to get our churches to a state of prayer"

ATLANTA (BP) — Prayer leaders from six denominations and two parachurch groups met in Atlanta April 12 to compare notes on prayer movements that are gaining momentum across America.

The meeting, thought to be the first of its kind in the United States, was convened by Henry Blackaby of the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board, Charles Crabtree of the Assemblies of God, and Al Vander Griend of the Christian Reformed Church.

A larger group of prayer leaders is scheduled to meet in Atlanta Nov. 29-Dec. 1. Attendance at this initial meeting was hindered due to scheduling conflicts, Blackaby said.

"We saw that God is doing some tremendous things in each of the denominations that none of us was aware of," Blackaby said.

meeting, he said: "There was not even one hint of discord. When we began to talk, we discovered it was almost as if God had issued a simultaneous call to his people to pray. There was a deep oneness of heart and mind.

"It was a divine appointment that God is marshalling his people to pray for revival. A mark of revival is unified praying.

"In every significant move of God, God's people have found their hearts united on the level of prayer. This is a historical precedent for spiritual awakening."

In addition to Blackaby, Crabtree and Vander Griend, participants included Dave Bucks of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), Brad Long of the Presbyterian Church USA, David Bryant and John Quam of Concerts of Prayer International, Alice Haynes with the Anglican Prayer Fellowship of the Episcopal Church,

(Continued on page 6)

Radio-TV trustees call special meeting for May 3

FORT WORTH, Texas (BP) — Trustees of the Southern Baptist Radio and Television Commission have been called to a special meeting May 3 to consider a recommendation they elect Jack Johnson as president.

"I have sent a notification to all trustees to meet at 2 p.m. May 3 at the Hyatt Regency Hotel at the DFW Airport to hear a recommendation from the search committee," said Mike Hamlett, pastor of First Church of North Spartanburg, S.C., and chairman of RTVC trustees.

Hamlett said the search committee will recommend Johnson to succeed Jimmy R. Allen, who resigned as president in April 1989 after trustees voted not to sell the American Christian Television System to a group of Texas investors.

Allen, who became president of the agency in January, 1980, had announced nearly a year earlier his plans to negotiate the sale of ACTS and to accompany the network. ACTS has been a financial drain on the SBC entity since it was launched in 1984.

Hamlett said he could not comment on the called meeting "much beyond the announcement because the board has not acted."

Johnson, 55, has been executive director of the Arizona Southern Baptist Convention since 1979. Previously, he was pastor of churches in California, Oklahoma, and Texas.

He is a graduate of Oklahoma Baptist University in Shawnee; received a master of divinity degree from Golden Gate Seminary, Mill Valley, Calif., and a doctor of philosophy degree from the California Graduate School of Theology, Glendale.

Johnson was a trustee of the RTVC from 1980-85, when he resigned, citing the pressure of his responsibilities as a state convention executive director.

Since Allen's resignation, RTVC Executive Vice President Richard T. McCartney has been interim president.

In addition to Hamlett, members of the search committee include Jewel Morris, a shopping center developer from Fort Smith, Ark.; Harold Brundige, an attorney and radio station owner from Martin, Tenn.; and Ernie Helton, an engineer from Columbus, Ohio.

Also serving with the search committee was T.W. Terral, director of Baptist associational missions in Baton Rouge, La. Terral went off the board in 1989, but was asked to continue to work with the search committee.

No controversy surfaced during the

Key legislative votes

Lottery = LT
Video poker = VP
Clinic licensing = CL
Abortion restriction = AR
Riverboat gambling = RG

SENATOR	LT	VP	CL	AR	RG
DOUG ANDERSON, JACKSON	Y	N	N	N	Y
JIM BEAN, HATTIESBURG	N	N	Y	Y	N
IRB BENJAMIN, RIENZI	N	NV	NV	Y	Y
CLAUDE BILBO, PASCAGOULA	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
BARBARA BLANTON, BRANDON	N	N	Y	Y	N
BUDDY BOND, CARTHAGE	N	N	Y	Y	N
EDDIE BRIGGS, DEKALB	Y	N	NV	Y	PY
HOB BRYAN, AMORY	N	N	NV	Y	NV
BILL CANON, COLUMBUS	N	NV	Y	Y	NV
ROBERT CROOK, RULEVILLE	Y	N	N	Y	Y
ROBERT DEARING, NATCHEZ	Y	Y	N	Y	Y
GLEN DEWEESE, MERIDIAN	N	NV	Y	Y	NV
VIC FRANCKIEWICZ, BAY ST. LOUIS	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
TOMMY GALLOTT, BILOXI	Y	Y	N	N	Y
JACK GORDON, OKOLONA	N	N	Y	Y	N
PUD GRAHAM, NEW ALBANY	N	N	Y	Y	N
GEORGE GUERIERI, SOUTHAVEN	N	N	Y	Y	N
STEPHEN HALE, PASCAGOULA	Y	N	Y	Y	Y
DICK HALL, JACKSON	Y	Y	N	N	Y
ALICE HARDEN, JACKSON	Y	Y	N	N	Y
KEN HARPER, VICKSBURG	Y	N	N	N	Y
BILL HARPOLE, STARKVILLE	N	N	NV	Y	NV
BILLY HARVEY, CARSON	N	N	Y	Y	N
ALAN HEFLIN, FOREST	N	N	Y	Y	N
BUNKY HUGGINS, GREENWOOD	Y	N	Y	Y	NV
TERRY JORDAN, PHILADELPHIA	Y	NV	Y	Y	Y
JOHN KEETON, GRENADA	N	N	Y	Y	NV
RICK LAMBERT, HATTIESBURG	Y	N	NV	Y	Y
HAINON MILLER, GREENVILLE	N	Y	Y	Y	N
CECIL MILLS, CLARA	N	N	NV	Y	N
OLLIE MOHAMED, BELZONI	N	Y	Y	Y	Y
BOB MONTGOMERY, CANTON	Y	Y	NV	Y	Y
ROBERT MONTY, GREENVILLE	Y	Y	N	Y	Y
JOHNNY MORGAN, OXFORD	N	N	N	N	Y
RONNNIE MUSGROVE, BATESVILLE	N	N	Y	Y	N
LYNN POSEY, UNION CHURCH	Y	N	N	Y	Y
W. L. RAYBORN, BROOKHAVEN	Y	N	N	Y	Y
BILL RENICK, RIPLEY	N	N	Y	Y	N
CY ROSENBLATT, JACKSON	N	N	Y	Y	N
VINCENT SCOPER, LAUREL	N	N	Y	Y	N
NEVIN SLEDGE, CLEVELAND	Y	Y	N	Y	Y
ROB SMITH, RICHLAND	NV	N	Y	Y	N
JOSEPH STOGNER, SANDY HOOK	Y	N	Y	Y	Y
WOOTSIE TATE, PICAYUNE	N	N	Y	Y	N
BILLY THAMES, MIZE	N	N	Y	Y	N
BOB USEY, GULFPORT	Y	N	Y	Y	Y
PAT WELCH, MCCOMB	Y	N	Y	Y	Y
JOHN WHITE, BALDWYN	Y	N	NV	Y	N
RICHARD WHITE, TERRY	N	N	Y	Y	N
ROGER WICKER, TUPELO	N	N	Y	Y	N
KENNETH WILLIAMS, CLARKSDALE	Y	N	Y	Y	PN
CLYDE WOODFIELD, GULFPORT	Y	N	Y	Y	Y

Y = Yes
N = No
NV = No vote
PY = Paired yes
PN = Paired no

Clinic licensing = CL
Riverboat gambling = RB
Lottery = LT

LEGISLATOR	CL	RB	LT
DONALD ALFORD, RIDGELAND	Y	Y	Y
D. R. ANDERSON, ELLISVILLE	Y	N	N
ED BLACKMON, CANTON	Y	Y	Y
BUCK BOUNDS, PHILADELPHIA	Y	N	Y
BILLY BOWLES, HOUSTON	Y	N	N
CLIFFORD BRITT, WESSON	Y	N	NV
TERRY BROWN, COLUMBUS	Y	N	Y
HARRY BRYAN, BATESVILLE	Y	N	Y
HORACE BUCKLEY, JACKSON	N	Y	Y
ED BUELOW, VICKSBURG	Y	Y	Y
GLENN BURDINE, MATHISTON	N	Y	Y
CREDELL CALHOUN, JACKSON	Y	Y	Y
CHARLIE CAPPS, CLEVELAND	Y	Y	Y
ERIC CLARK, TAYLORSVILLE	Y	N	N
ROBERT CLARK, LEXINGTON	Y	Y	NV
ALYCE CLARKE, JACKSON	N	Y	Y
DOROTHY COLE, RICHTON	Y	N	N
RAYMOND COMANS	Y	N	N
J. P. COMPRETTA, BAY ST. LOUIS	Y	Y	Y
ROY DABBS, MERIDIAN	Y	N	N
BILL DENNY, JACKSON	Y	N	Y
OLIVER DIAZ, BILOXI	Y	Y	Y
MITCH ELLERBY, MOSS POINT	Y	Y	Y
JIM ELLINGTON, JACKSON	Y	N	Y
TYRONE ELLIS, STARKVILLE	Y	Y	Y
FRANK ELY, HURLEY	Y	Y	Y
GLENN ENDRIS, BILOXI	Y	Y	Y
ALVIN ENDT, OCEAN SPRINGS	Y	Y	Y
GEORGE FLAGGS, VICKSBURG	Y	Y	Y
RICK FORTENBERRY, MERIDIAN	Y	Y	Y
TED FOSTER, PONTOTOC	Y	N	N
HILLMAN FRAZIER, JACKSON	Y	NV	NV
ISIAH FREDERICKS, GULFPORT	NV	NV	Y
DELMA FURNISS, RENA LARA	Y	N	N
JOEDY GEORGE, GREENWOOD	Y	Y	Y
DAVID GREEN, GLOSTER	Y	Y	Y
JIMMY GREEN, ITTA BENA	Y	Y	Y
JOHN GRISHAM, SOUTHAVEN	Y	N	Y
DON GRIST, VARDAMAN	Y	N	N
DANNY GUICE, OCEAN SPRINGS	Y	Y	Y
MIKE GUNN, JACKSON	Y	NV	Y
DAVID HALLBROOK, BELZONI	Y	N	N
BRUCE HANSON, COLUMBUS	Y	N	Y
AYRES HAXTON, NATCHEZ	Y	Y	Y
CURT HEBERT, PASCAGOULA	N	Y	Y
CLAYTON HENDERSON, TUNICA	Y	Y	Y
AARON HENRY, CLARKSDALE	Y	Y	Y
ASHLEY HINES, GREENVILLE	N	Y	Y
STEVE HOLLAND, PLANTERSVILLE	Y	Y	Y
CURTIS HOLSTON, POPLARVILLE	Y	N	N
TOMMY HORNE, MERIDIAN	Y	N	N
JEROME HUSKEY, GREENWOOD SPRINGS	Y	N	Y
ED JACKSON, CLEVELAND	Y	Y	Y
BILL JONES, PETAL	Y	Y	Y
LESLIE KING, GREENVILLE	Y	Y	Y
BILLY LANCASTER, WINONA	Y	Y	Y
EZELL LEE, PICAYUNE	Y	N	NV
DICK LIVINGSTON, PULASKI	Y	N	N
BENNETT MALONE, CARTHAGE	Y	Y	Y
PERCY MAPLES, LUCEDALE	Y	Y	Y
BILLY MCCOY, RIENZI	Y	N	N
CECIL MCCRORY, BRANDON	Y	N	Y
JOE MCELWAIN, RIPLEY	N	Y	N
WES MCINVALE, BATESVILLE	Y	Y	Y
BUTCH MCMILLAN, KOSCIUSKO	Y	N	N
SONNY MERIDETH, GREENVILLE	Y	Y	Y
MIKE MILLS, ABERDEEN	NV	N	N
BOBBY MOAK, BOGUE CHITTO	Y	Y	Y
BOBBY MOODY, LOUISVILLE	Y	N	N
ANDY MORRIS, NEW ALBANY	Y	N	N
HARVEY MOSS, CORINTH	Y	N	N
JOEL NETHERLAND, YAZOO CITY	Y	N	Y
CLEM NETTLES, JAYESS	Y	N	N
MIKE NIPPER, GRENADA	Y	B	NV
CARL PARKER, SUMRALL	Y	Y	Y
JOHN PENNEBAKER, NEW ALBANY	Y	N	N
DIANE PERANICH, PASS CHRISTIAN	Y	Y	Y
ED PERRY, OXFORD	Y	Y	Y
WILL GREEN POINDEXTER, INVERNESS	Y	Y	Y
JOHN REEVES, JACKSON	Y	Y	Y
TOMMY REYNOLDS, CHARLESTON	Y	N	Y
WALTER ROBINSON, BOLTON	Y	Y	Y
RAY ROGERS, PEARL	Y	N	Y
SCOTT ROSS, WEST POINT	Y	Y	Y
ED RYAN, BILOXI	Y	Y	Y
FRANCES SAVAGE, BRANDON	Y	N	Y
MARK SCARBOROUGH, FLORENCE	Y	N	Y
BARNEY SCHOBY, NATCHEZ	Y	N	N
ELOISE SCOTT, TUPELO	Y	N	N
MORRIS LEE SCOTT, HERNANDO	Y	Y	Y
CHARLES SHEPPHARD, LORMAN	Y	Y	Y
BOB SHORT, GULFPORT	Y	Y	Y
CECIL SIMMONS, MABEN	Y	N	N
MIRIAM SIMMONS, COLUMBIA	Y	N	N
JIM SIMPSON, LONG BEACH	Y	Y	Y
BILL SINGLETARY, CLINTON	Y	N	Y
GARY STAPLES, LAUREL	Y	NV	N
MARY ANN STEVENS, WEST	Y	Y	Y
KEN STRIBLING, JACKSON	Y	N	Y
JOHNNY STRINGER, MONTROSE	Y	N	N
JOE TAYLOR, WAYNESBORO	Y	N	N
DEWAYNE THOMAS, JACKSON	Y	Y	Y
GUS TOWNSEND, LAUREL	Y	N	N
JIMMY TYRONE, MONTICELLO	Y	Y	Y
DON UNDERWOOD, BROOKHAVEN	N	Y	Y
J. B. VAN SLYKE, HATTIESBURG	Y	Y	Y
RAY VECCHIO, GAUTIER	Y	Y	Y
ROBERT VINCE, SANDY HOOK	Y	N	N
MACK LLOYD WADKINS, IUKA	Y	N	N
CHARLES WALDRUP, DREW	Y	N	Y
ALFRED WALKER, COLUMBUS	Y	Y	Y
BRENT WALKER, MCGEE	Y	Y	Y
TOMMY WALMAN, MCCOMB	Y	Y	Y
JOE WARREN, MOUNT OLIVE	Y	N	Y
PERCY WATSON, HATTIESBURG	Y	Y	Y
CHARLES WEISSINGER, ROLLING FORK	Y	Y	Y
JERRY WILKERSON, DALEVILLE	Y	Y	Y
CHARLIE WILLIAMS, SENATOBIA	Y	Y	Y
TOMMY WOODS, BYHALIA	Y	Y	Y
CHARLES YOUNG, MERIDIAN	Y	Y	Y

Y = Yes
N = No
NV = No vote

Three conferences will focus on authentic worship

Three conferences on authentic worship will take place in north, central, and south Mississippi in May.


Thielen

These meetings, entitled "Reaching People through Authentic Worship," are for church and associational worship leaders including pastors, music directors, directors of missions, instrumentalists, and worship committee members.

They are a part of a multi-year series called "Let's All Go to Church."

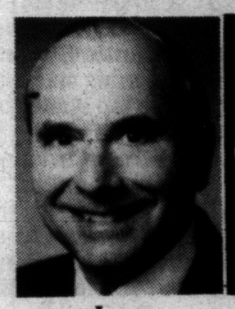
The dates and sites are May 21 at First Church, Oxford; May 22 at Woodland Hills Church, Jackson; and May 24 at First Church, Hattiesburg.

Each begins at 8:15 with registration and ends at 3:35. Program leaders include Martin Thielen, consultant in the pastoral ministries section of the Sunday School Board; Julius Thompson, director of the Church Administration-Pastoral Ministries Department, MBCB; and Graham Smith, director of the Church Music Department, MBCB.

Topics include "The Nature and Function of the Worship Committee," "Evaluation of Worship," "Ideas for Promoting Attendance," and "Focus on the New Baptist Hymnal."

Participants are requested to preregister by writing Thompson at Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205.

Senior adults can choose from three Gulfshore meets


Lyon


Wells

Senior Adults can choose from among three conferences this summer at Gulfshore Baptist Assembly, each with the same program, but with some different personnel.

The three dates will be May 21-23, May 24-26, and May 28-June 1. Theme of each will be "Senior Adults Undergirding Your Pastor's Ministry."

Registration opens for the first two conferences at 1:30 on the first day. Each will end at noon the third day. The third meeting will begin at 1:30 on May 28 with registration and conclude on June 1 after breakfast.

Conference pastor for the first two will be Henry Lyon, family ministry director for the Alabama Baptist Convention. Ray Wells will be pastor for the third, longer meeting. He is family ministry director for the Louisiana Baptist Convention.

J. Clark Hensley, contract consultant for senior adults, Mississippi Baptist Convention Board, will be program director for all three conferences. Levon Moore, retired director of missions for Attala County, will assist him for the first two meetings.

Cortez Hutchinson Jr., minister of education at First Church, Yazoo City, will assist during the third. The two assistants will lead the morning watch devotionals on the pier during their conferences.

Besides leadership conferences, there will be sessions on wellness, crafts, better nutrition, seniors reaching seniors, "How to Be a Saint," volunteer missions, and the cults.

For program information, contact Hensley in the Discipleship Training Department, MBCB, Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205. To register, write Gulfshore Baptist Assembly, Henderson Point, Pass Christian, MS 39571.

Margaret Fairburn returns to work in Liberia

MONROVIA, Liberia (BP) — Southern Baptist missionary Margaret Fairburn of Tylertown, Miss., returned to her work in Zwedru, Liberia, April 18 after leaving her home there three weeks earlier because of increased fighting between government and rebel troops in neighboring Nimba County.

Fairburn had flown to Liberia's capital, Monrovia, because the main road to Zwedru often is cut off during heavier fighting. However, press reports from Zwedru say the city is safe and has remained fairly calm.

The fighting began last December when rebel troops invaded Liberia from Ivory Coast. The rebels are trying to overthrow President Samuel Doe, who seized power in a 1980 coup.

While in Monrovia, Fairburn was joined in late March by five other Southern Baptist personnel who had to leave their work in and around Yekepa, a city in northern Nimba County where some of the worst fighting has occurred.

Of the five Southern Baptist workers and one child of missionaries who had to leave Yekepa, only Journeyman Lynette Sneed of Liberty, Mo., remains in Monrovia. Career missionary Earl Williams of West Monroe, La., returned to Yekepa after accompanying his wife, Jane, and their 9-year-old son, Kenneth, to Monrovia, but also was forced to leave later because of fighting near Yekepa. The Williamses now have left Monrovia for a short vacation with family in the United States. Volunteers Cecil and Ellajane Sutley, who were near the end of their volunteer term in Yekepa, decided to return a few weeks early to their home in Arkadelphia, Ark.

At the end of 1989, Southern Baptists had 2,132 endorsed chaplains serving throughout the United States and in 17 foreign countries.

Behind the torn curtain

Is Gorbachev a secret Christian?

By Dan Wooding

In one of his latest columns, journalist Dan Wooding attempts to discover why the Soviet leader talks about God and examines the evidence to see if Gorbachev is actually a secret believer.

The astonishing turn-around in the Soviet Union during the brief but historic reign of Mikhail Gorbachev has prompted many Christians to ask the question: Is Gorbachev a secret believer?

There is certainly evidence to show that he is certainly not anti-Christian. If he were, he would not have allowed an incredible six million Russian Bibles and New Testaments to legally enter the Soviet Union in 1989.

During his policy of glasnost (openness) and perestroika (restructuring), official Soviet sources claim that 1,610 new religious communities for all religious traditions were registered in 1988, including restored and newly-constructed church buildings.

That fact that just about all religious prisoners have been freed from the Gulag, as well as Christians being allowed to hold open-air services and mass baptisms all over the U.S.S.R., also points to his sympathies lying in favour of believers.

If Gorbachev were anti-Christian, he would not have allowed Argentine-born evangelist Luis Palau to make history in September by holding open-air meetings in the cities of Riga, Leningrad, Kishinev, Kiev, and Moscow. In a country that for years has tried to stamp out religion, thousands came forward to give their lives to Christ.

Charisma magazine in the United States reports that when Gorbachev visits his mother on his birthday, she serves him an Easter cake decorated with the initials of the Russian words for "Christ is risen."

It is also widely reported that when he was a child, the general secretary of the Soviet Union was baptized in a Russian Orthodox church during Stalin's reign of terror.

While in Paris in the summer of 1989, the Soviet leader was questioned by reporters about his religious beliefs. It was then that he said that his wife, Raisa, was the only "non-believer in the family." When asked if he had been baptized, he reportedly replied, "Yes, I was baptized. I don't think there's anything strange about that."

When Gorbachev met with Ronald Reagan, the then President of the United States, during summit meetings, he was heard referring to God. He once said, "Jesus Christ alone knew answers to all questions and knew how to feed 20,000 Jews with five loaves of bread."

Does this mean that Gorbachev believes? Political commentator Mark Helprin, writer in the **Wall Street Journal**, believes the examples are not conclusive. Still one can conclude that the Soviet leader represents either a spiritual surprise attack within the Soviet hierarchy or a manipulation of the Soviet people's religious aspirations.

During an interview with a Southern California Christian radio station, an interviewee who had just returned from the Soviet Union made the startling claim that Mikhail Gorbachev's brother was actually an unregistered Baptist pastor. Shortly afterwards, Soviet-watcher, Michael Bordeaux of Keston College, England, said he doubted this claim. Later, when I talked with the man who made the original claim, he said he has since been back to the U.S.S.R. and, after further investigations, discovered that Gorbachev's brother was not a pastor after all, but an elder of an unregistered Baptist congregation. If that's true, some of Gorbachev's "openness" to Christianity could be explained.

It is, however, hard to believe that Gorbachev would have been allowed to rise to such a position of power if he were a believer, and Helprin himself suggests that all the apparent examples of spirituality in Gorbachev's life, even taken together, are not conclusive evidence of Christian faith. But he uses the evidence as the basis for an intriguing speculation about what the future might hold if the top leader of the Soviet Union actually believes in God.

A truly Christian Gorbachev, he concludes, would have the potential to "turn the Soviet system upside down."

Whatever the truth is about Gorbachev's faith, or lack of it, we, as Christians, need to pray for this man that has already heralded in some of the most historic changes in the Eastern bloc. For he has been used to finally open up much of the Iron Curtain.

Dan Wooding is an award-winning British journalist now living in Southern California, where he is the founder and president of ASSIST (Aids to Special Saints in Strategic Times.) This new ministry is now linking churches in the West with those in restricted-access countries behind the various curtains in a sister church program. For further information, write to ASSIST, P. O. Box 41179, Pasadena, CA 91114-8179.

RTVC trustees hike budget

By Toby Druin

FORT WORTH, Texas (BP) — Buoyed by an optimistic financial report and the observation from interim President Richard T. McCartney that "the patient is now healthy," Southern Baptist Radio and Television Commission trustees voted to increase the agency's budget by more than $600,000 for the last half of the current fiscal year.

The increase will boost the 1989-90 budget, which runs through September 1990, from $7,756,000 to $8,173,000 and will provide funds for marketing, return of four employees to the payroll who have been working on a contract basis, reopening of at least one regional office and promotion funds for the ACTS network, and a 5 percent salary increase for employees — their first in two years.

The trustees also were informed by trustee Chairman Michael S. Hamlet that the search committee, which has been seeking a successor to President Jimmy R. Allen, who resigned last April, expects to summon the trustees back to Fort Worth, Texas, soon to hear a recommendation from the committee.

Hamlet, who apprised the trustees of the committee's efforts during a 35-minute closed-door session, told the **Baptist Standard**, newsjournal of the Baptist General Convention of Texas, he expects to ask for the called session of the trustees "probably in two or three weeks."

McCartney, former executive vice president who has been serving as interim president since Allen's resignation, reported to the trustees that during the year the commission's short-term debt of $625,000 had been paid off; the long-term debt, which was $8.4 million last April, had been reduced to $7.5 million; and the commission's reserves had been increased to $400,000. The goal is to build the reserves to $500,000 by the end of 1992.

"Over the past months we have had to be extremely pragmatic in confronting financial realities," McCartney told the trustees. "Now we can begin to dream again. We can replace the problems of the past with the possibilities of the future."

The improved financial picture was achieved through "tightening our belts until we could hardly breathe," he said, and also through greatly increased revenues from advertising and from syndication fees for films and programs the commission owns.

Projected advertising and syndication revenue for the first six months was $485,000, but already has totaled almost $800,000, and is expected to continue at the increased level.

The contract with the San Antonio, Texas, firm that has sold spot advertising and spot announcements on the ACTS network is under review, McCartney noted.

Michael S. Wright, vice president of ACTS for affiliate relations, reported that during the last year of "hold our own" activities, the ACTS network had done just that — losing about 750,000 subscribers, but also gaining about the same number.

His report showed the network is now on 438 systems with a total potential viewing audience of almost 25 million.

Hamlet was elected to a second term as chairman of the trustees. Other officers elected were Leroy Stevens, retired layman from Phoenix, Ariz., first vice chairman; James M. "Mickey" Castleberry, pastor of Ridgecrest Church, Montgomery, Ala., second vice chairman; and Steven A. Huffman, layman from Papillon, Neb., secretary.

Prayer leaders . . .

(Continued from page 4)

Charles Denton of the Assemblies of God, and Glenn Sheppard of International Prayer Ministries.

Each person reported witnessing a new emphasis upon prayer in the churches. For example, Crabtree said the A mblies of God is enlisting 1 million people to pray daily for revival in America as part of a 10-year plan called "Decade of Harvest."

"There is a hunger for God being born all across this nation," he told the group. "I've never seen anything like it. God is trying to get our churches to a state of prayer."

Mack Wingfield is on the staff of Home Mission Board.

FMB assigns first full-time workers to USSR

(Continued from page 3)

homeland.

The elder Lozuk had lived in Fort Worth 10 years before he was invited to a Slavic Baptist mission. The Russian Orthodox immigrant began attending services at the mission, professed his faith in Christ and later was called by the congregation to be its pastor. He married a Polish Roman Catholic immigrant, Jennie, who also had made a profession of faith at the church.

Growing up, missionary Lozuk recounted, "Mother would speak Polish, I might answer in English, and Dad might answer in Russian." At church, sermons and Sunday School were in either English or Russian; Polish also was used in singing. His father led the 100-member congregation for 30 years until his death in 1957. His mother still lives in Fort Worth.

The Foreign Mission Board is working to fill several other career missionary positions for Eastern Europe: an evangelism and church development worker to assist Polish Baptists; a couple to teach English in Poland; a coordinator of Bible correspondence courses and religious education in Hungary; a New Testament and Greek teacher for the Baptist seminary in Hungary; and a printer to teach Hungarian Baptists to operate offset printing equipment. In February, the board appointed a missionary to focus on Romanian-language radio ministry.

"We are discussing other career positions with Eastern European Baptist leaders," said Isam Ballenger, Foreign Mission Board vice president for Southern Baptist work in Europe. He anticipates requests for additional workers to assist in evangelism and the training of church leaders in the region.

The board also is enlisting Baptists for Eastern European assignments ranging from six months to two years under its International Service Corps volunteer program. Anticipated needs include English language teachers for Poland and Hungary and an agriculturist worker and physician for Romania. One recently filled position will entail youth and student work in Hungary.

In short-term volunteer work, four teams of 10 or 11 college students and two or more adult leaders will help renovate a Baptist church in Leningrad. The structure was built as a Russian Orthodox church around 1900. The Foreign Mission Board and Sunday School Board are co-sponsoring the project, the first such venture with Soviet Baptists.

Weaver McCracken, Department of Student Work, Mississippi Baptist Convention Board, said that 10 students from Mississippi and two Baptist student directors are to help with the project in Leningrad. The directors are Joe Cobb, Booneville, Northeast Mississippi Community College, and John Sumner, Ellisville, Jones County Community College. McCracken, who went to Russia earlier this year to help in advance planning for the volunteer project, said student response has been great. At least 40 applications from Mississippi students were received, he said.

North Carolina Baptists have sent the first construction teams in a partnership to help Polish Baptists construct a new seminary building. The three-year project will involve some 500 North Carolina volunteers. California Baptists have plans to aid Ukrainian Baptists with computer and office equipment and leadership training. Georgia Baptists' executive committee has laid the groundwork for a three-year partnership with Germany. With German reunification, it would include churches in former East Germany.

For the third consecutive year, the Foreign Mission Board has enlisted several teams of eight volunteers each to continue construction of a new seminary building in Hungary.

Four professors from Southwestern Seminary, Fort Worth, will be in Romania from May 22 to June 12 to lead seminars for church leaders. Three professors and a senior English student from Oklahoma Baptist University in Shawnee will be in Hungary June 28 to Aug. 11 to teach English at the International Baptist Lay Academy, an institute opening this summer for training church leaders throughout Eastern Europe.

In another development, Columbia Church in Falls Church, Va., and Moscow Baptist Church in the Soviet Union have entered into a sister-church relationship.

Another type of ministry is under way in California, where Mary Froese, a member of North Vista Church in Vista is organizing a food drive for 2,000 Romanian Christian families in and around Piatra-Neamt, a city north of Bucharest that has received relatively little outside assistance.

Mary Speidel and Donald D. Martin of Richmond bureau of Baptist Press also contributed to this story.

Art Toalston writes for FMB.

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Vines announces key SBC appointments

(Continued from page 3)

The committee includes a clergy or denominationally-related person and a layperson from each convention. In the listing, clergy will be listed first.

ALABAMA — Frank Whitaker, pastor, Gilliam Springs Church, Arab; Mary John Wilson, homemaker and member of First Church, Gadsden.

ALASKA — Charles Bridges, pastor, Jewel Lake Church, Anchorage; William Milewski, state employee and member of First Church, Kenai.

ARIZONA — Jimmy Dean Prock, pastor, First Church, Chandler; and Louise Coffey, homemaker and member of First Southern Church, Glendale.

ARKANSAS — Ronnie Mays, pastor of First Church, Beebe; and Robert Ray Wilson, a dentist and member of First Church, Heber Springs.

CALIFORNIA — Herb Carson, pastor of Cerritos Valley Church, LaPalma; Linda Peterson, a homemaker and member of Stine Road Church, Bakersfield.

COLORADO — Jim Henderson, pastor of Pleasant Valley Church, Colorado Springs; Judy McClellan, a teacher and member of First Church, Rifle.

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA — Harold Sorill, pastor of Clinton (Md.) Church; and Velma Henderson, nursing administrator and member of Hillcrest Church, Oxon Hill, Md.

FLORIDA — Gates; Kim Curry Orman, housewife and member of Garden Church, Hollywood.

GEORGIA — David Drake, pastor, First Church, Cartersville; Allen Kuykendall, Air Force captain and member of Eastwood Church, Acworth.

HAWAII — Malcolm Stuart, pastor of Kailua Church, Kailua; Morris Takushi, state employee and member of Nuuanu Church, Honolulu.

ILLINOIS — Max Samples, pastor of Third Church, West Frankfort; James Perryman, an engineer and member of Bethel Church, Kankakee.

INDIANA — Robert Tibbs, pastor, Memorial Church, Brownsburg; Diane Wright, administrative assistant and member of Pleasant Heights Church, Indianapolis.

KANSAS-NEBRASKA — Fred Dycus, pastor of First Church, Baxter Springs, Kan.; Bruce Davisson, business manager and member of Shawnee Heights Church, Topeka.

KENTUCKY — Ferrell Gardner, pastor of Carlisle Avenue Church, Louisville; Thomas Adrian Jones, automobile dealer and member of Friendship Church, Grand Rivers.

LOUISIANA — Jimmie Herring, pastor of Bonita Road Church, Bastrop; Suzanne Grigsby, homemaker and member of First Church, Moss Bluff.

MARYLAND/DELAWARE — Robert H. Depp, pastor of First Church, Chestertown, Md.; Helen Scott, teacher and member of Cockeysville (Md.) Church.

MICHIGAN — Robert Spivey, pastor of North Prospect Church, Ypsilanti; Edward Dauzy, layman and member of Pine Mountain Church, Iron Mountain.

MISSISSIPPI — Bobby Williamson, pastor of Park Place Church, Brandon; Mike Hatten, manager of a nursing home and member of Big Level Church, Perkinston.

MISSOURI — Dennis McGowan, pastor of Spring Valley Church, Raytown; Robert Miller, self-employed and a member of First Church, DeSoto.

NEVADA — Michael Rodrigues, pastor of Sunrise Church, Las Vegas; Ann E. Brown, clerk and member of Desert Hills Church, Las Vegas.

NEW ENGLAND — Jim Beddows, pastor of Candlewood Church, Danbury, Conn,; Murray Wheeler, retired and a member of First Church, Tolland, Conn.

NEW MEXICO — Joe McKinney, pastor of First Church, Albuquerque; Margaret Witt, homemaker and member of Sandia Church, Edgewood.

NEW YORK — Larry Pridmore, pastor of Grace Church, Whitehall; Bonita Leary, homemaker and member of Farmingdale (N.Y.) Church.

NORTH CAROLINA — Dennis Patton, pastor of Mount Hebron Church, Connelly Springs; Gary Parker, a furniture salesman and member of Lawing's Chapel, Maiden.

NORTHWEST — A. Wade Thomas, pastor of Calvary Church, Vancouver, Wash.; Betty Gantenbein, homemaker and member of First Church, Madras, Ore.

OHIO — Tom Walters, pastor of Urbancrest Church, Goshen; Karen Alexander, homemaker and member of Sharon Woods Church, Columbus.

OKLAHOMA — Chester Ward Jr., director of associational missions and member of Victory Park Church, McAlester; Norman Lamb, attorney and member of Emmanuel Church, Enid.

PENNSYLVANIA/SOUTH JERSEY — Lamar Duke, pastor of Absecon (N.J.) Church; Malcolm Taylor, vice president of a consulting firm and member of Pittsburgh (Pa.) Church.

SOUTH CAROLINA — Marion Jones, pastor of Langston Memorial Church, Conway; Greg Hasselbring, a sales representative and member of Central Church, Darlington.

TENNESSEE — Todd Zeigler, pastor of First Church, Alcoa; Tommy Doyle, a medical doctor and member of First Church, Milan.

TEXAS — Hayes Wicker, pastor of First Church, Lubbock; James Brunson, attorney and member of First Church, Houston.

VIRGINIA — Phillip Hunt, pastor of Wayne Hills Church, Waynesboro; Lon Clayton Warner, an employee of the Central Intelligence Agency and member of Jefferson (Va.) Church.

WEST VIRGINIA — Lonnie Chenowith, pastor of Mineral Wells (W. Va.) fellowship; Georgette James, beautician and member of Edgemont Church, Bluefield.

UTAH/IDAHO — Don Falke, pastor of First Church, Moab, Utah; Harold Luke, a maintenance technician and member of First Church, Helper, Utah.

RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE

The Resolutions Committee is made up of 10 members, three of whom must be members of the SBC Executive Committee. The committee, according to Bylaw 21, has the "duty . . . to prepare and submit to the convention resolutions which the committee deems appropriate for adoption and to report on all matters submitted to it by the convention, with or without recommendation or amendments."

The bylaw also asks that proposed resolutions be sent to the committee 30 days before the annual meeting.

Vines named Mark Corts, pastor of Calvary Church, Winston-Salem, N.C., as chairman. He also named Mark Coppenger, executive director of the State Convention of Baptists in Indiana, and the 1989 Resolutions Committee chairman, to the 1990 committee.

Executive Committee members are Paul House, an assistant professor of religion at Taylor University, Upland, Ind.; **Russell Bush**, a retired dentist and pastor, from Hattiesburg, Miss.; and Miriam Kibelbeck, a homemaker from Port Charlotte, Fla.

Other members are Andy Buckley, Baptist Student Union director at the University of Southwestern Louisiana, and member of East Bayou Church, Lafayette, La.; Mrs. Bobby Vereen, a homemaker and member of Woodridge Church, Mobile, Ala.; Robert Sloan, a professor at Baylor University and member or First Church, Lorena, Texas; Bill Merrill, pastor of Country Estates Church, Midwest City, Okla.; and Charles Page, pastor of First Church, Nashville.

CREDENTIALS COMMITTEE

The Credentials Committee works with the registration secretary during the annual meeting "to review and rule upon any question which may arise in registration concerning the credentials of messengers."

Bylaw 8 adds any committee ruling "may be appealed to the convention during business session. Any contention arising on the floor concerning seating of messengers shall be referred to the committee for consideration and the committee shall report back to the convention."

Vines named Lawton Searcy, pastor of First Church, Baton Rouge, La., as chairman.

Other members are Sammy Wilson, pastor of Calvary Church, Alcoa, Tenn.; Mrs. Steve Felker, a homemaker and member of Swift Creek Church, Colonial Heights, Va.; Harry Michael, pastor of Poplar Springs Church, Hiram, Ga.; Mrs. Steve Drake, a pathology lab technician and member of Newton (Ala.) Church;

Mrs. Curt Dodd, a homemaker and member of Metropolitan Church, Houston; Forrest Lowry, pastor of Spring (Texas) Church; **Joe Cobb**, BSU director and member of First Church, Booneville, Miss.; Herbert Cole, pastor of Beulah Church, Carrollton, Ga.; Tommy Knotts, director of missions and member of First Church, Belvedere, S.C.;

Frank Bell, pastor of Webb Church, Newport, Tenn.; Gene Lindsay, pastor of First Church, Wills Point, Texas; Johnny Beard, pastor of Colonial Hills Church, Tyler, Texas; Step Martin, pastor of Calvary Church, Shreveport, La; Doug McKinnon, a financial planner and member of Sandia Church, Albuquerque;

Steve McVey, pastor of Bemiston Church, Talladega, Ala.; Mrs. Ron Meyers, a program administrator and member of First Church, Springfield, Ill.; Delano McMinn, pastor of Mt. Lebanon Church, Greer, S.C.; Mrs. Emerson Lyle, a teacher and member of Whitesburg Church, Huntsville, Ala.;

Kenneth Hale, pastor of Trinity Church, Hanover, N.H.; William T. Spencer II, director of missions and member of Cornerstone Church, Ankeny, Iowa; John Bridges, retired insurance agent and member of First Church, Cartersville, Ga.;

James Rock, pastor of Mt. Pisgah Church, Austell, Ga.; Harry Clause, a medical doctor and member of First Church, Roanoke, Va.; Steve Carr, pastor of Old Bethlehem Church, Union City, Tenn.; Don Wills, investments and member of Park Cities Church, Dallas; and Steve Frank Bain, pastor of LaCeview Church, Selmer, Tenn.

TELLERS COMMITTEE

The Tellers Committee, working under the supervision of the SBC registration secretary, tabulates any votes taken during the annual meeting.

Vines named Tim Hedquist, administrator at Bellevue Church, Cordova, Tenn., as chairman of the committee. Hedquist recently resigned as vice president of business and finance of the SBC Executive Committee and convention manager to accept the post at the suburban Memphis, Tenn., Church.

Other members:

Mrs. Ernie Myers, a homemaker and member of First Southern Church, Reno, Nev.; Mrs. David Bruce, a homemaker and member of Riverside Church, Denver; Claude Cone, executive director of the Baptist Convention of New Mexico and member of First Church, Albuquerque;

Earl Potts, executive director of the Alabama Baptist Convention and member of Eastern Hills Church, Montgomery, Ala.; Paul Murphy, pastor of Twelfth Street Church, Gadsden, Ala.; R. Albert Mohler Jr., editor of the **Christian Index**, newsjournal of the Georgia Baptist Convention and member of Atkinson Road Church, Lawrenceville, Ga.;

Mrs. Tony Chester, a homemaker and member of Riverside Church, Fort Myers, Fla.; Randall Williams, pastor of First Church, Tampa, Fla.; **Eddie Hamilton**, pastor of Oak Forest Church, Jackson, Miss.; Wendell Estep, pastor of First Church, Columbia, S.C.;

Bill Prince, manager with a telephone company and member of Abilene Church, Martinez, Ga.; Ray Spence, pastor of Second Church, Richmond, Va.; Ted Mace, pastor of First Church, Elkton, Md.; and Marshall Albritton, attorney and member of Park Avenue Church, Nashville.

Martin is news editor, BP.

Cancer Center, leases Roberts' City of Faith

TULSA, Okla. (EP) — Four months after Oral Roberts closed the City of Faith hospital to cut costs, a new tenant for the facility has been found. The Cancer Care Centers of America, based in Zion, Ill., has signed a 30-year lease for 250,000 square feet of the space available in the 30-story hospital, or roughly 10 percent of the space available.

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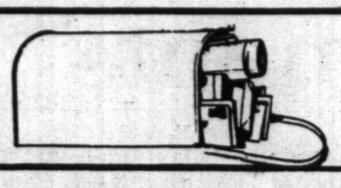
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Letters to the editor





Letters to the editor must be limited to 300 words and the editor reserves the right to trim those that are longer. Editorial prerogatives must be reserved under all circumstances, and the opinions of the letter writers do not necessarily reflect the views of the staff of the Baptist Record. Only signed letters will be used, but the writer may request that his name be withheld. The withholding of names will be at the discretion of the editor.

Litmus test

Editor:

Regarding the recent decision of the commissioners of the Christian Life Commission about a "pro-life" litmus test for future speakers, I am saddened to see an ever-shrinking circle of fellowship within the SBC typified by this kind of stance. I attended a CLC meeting years ago on the family when speakers ranged from Captain Kangaroo to James Dobson, David Mace, and Jerry Falwell. I enjoyed the diversity of opinion and opportunity to think through the various presentations. I think abortion is an important issue and a national tragedy, but the church was here before the abortion issue and it will be here after it. It is not our sole agenda. Far sadder is the Christian ghetto mentality that is clouding our agency life. Give Southern Baptist leaders and people a break — we are capable of separating wheat from chaff and thinking responsibly about significant issues. Too many hysterical conspiracy theories exist today when what we need is more trust, more dialogue, more understanding. Discussion and clarification are not necessarily compromise — but they do require courtesy, patience, respect, and consideration, qualities that seem in shorter supply each year.

I'm glad our church doesn't operate like the commissioners. No one could get in. If a 13-year statute of limitations were applied on us all regarding previous sins, petitions, and statements, I doubt seriously we'd have any members left! Dr. Stassen has been needlessly insulted, Dr. Land handcuffed, and energy wasted once again on the creation of a policy that won't change the tragedy of abortion anyway. When is reality going to set in on us?

Gary Furr, pastor
First Baptist Church
Blakely, Georgia

Hear before condemn

Editor:

Would you allow me to suggest that those who attack Dr. Norman Vincent Peale and **Guideposts** read **The Positive Power of Jesus Christ** by Dr. Peale.

He states in his introduction, page 10, "A second reason for writing this book, if I needed a reason, is that I have always witnessed to the work of Christ in my own life, in my long ministry, and in the life experiences of many with whom I have either had a pastoral relationship or have communiciated with my books, radio, television, public speeches or by other methods. I felt that I would like very much for my last book (if it should be that) to be strong, clear, and loving witness to my faith in the Lord Jesus Christ and an expression of gratitude for all he has done for me, one of the least of his servants."

Also, on page 11 he said, "This book is my humble tribute to our Lord Jesus Christ."

It is my understanding that Christians should hear our brother before we attack or condemn him.

Joe Ratcliff
Interim pastor
Bassfield Baptist Church

Bibles needed

Editor:

Please print this plea for Bibles. Age has deprived me of the ability to drive, but God has opened my eyes to the needs of poor (and some not so poor) children in my community. They need Bibles! My church, FBC, Marion, exhausted its storage space last year to give us about 35 Bibles which we found new homes for.

We don't need your family heirloom, or such; but there is no such thing as a "Good Book" sitting on the shelf gathering dust! Especially if an unchurched child can use it. We will see that yours gets a new home.

Please send your extra NIV Bibles and New Testaments, Good News for Modern Man Bibles/New Testaments, large print Bibles, "Little Red" Gideon New Testaments, Bible and picture stories, dictionaries, atlases, and language Bibles — Spanish, French, and other languages. In March I requested a Japanese Bible from the Gideons to give to an exchange student; in about 10 days they did. We would like to have about 25 each of Spanish and French New Testaments to give to high school and college language students; Catholic versions are also needed.

Please send them to me or to First Baptist Church, Marion, MS 39342; or, Christians in Newton may leave them with Dr. John Dent at Clarke College. (Please **do not** leave your valuable ancient Greek manuscripts with him. He has been known to devour one — just kidding, Brother John).

Roland E. Carraway
P. O. Box 19
Marion, MS 39342

Authentic representation

Editor:

I join your "sadness" (Baptist Record, April 19). However, as concerns an official position for the Southern Baptist Alliance, I urge readers to examine two documents: A video, "Being Baptist Means Freedom," and "Say Yes to Freedom." Both may be obtained free from our national SBC office, 1328 16th St. N.W., Washington, DC 20036. I also will be glad to share copies with Mississippians.

Having spent most of my professional career in denominational positions with the SBC, I have witnessed divergent expressions of "being Baptist" (including remnants of Landmarkism). In the Southern Baptist Alliance I find the most authentic representation of cherished Baptist heritage.

Thelma Arnote Pearson
P. O. Box 15757
Hattiesburg, MS 39402

Robinson resigns

Editor:

Perry Robinson has recently resigned his position as minister of music at First Church of Ellisville. We are now accepting applications for a part-time minister of music. Please send all resumes to First Baptist Church, Minister of Music Search Committee, 302 Holly Street, Ellisville, MS 39437 or to Earl Benson, Chairman, Music Search Committee, 1003 Anderson Street, Ellisville, MS 39437.

C. Alan Woodward, pastor
First Church,Ellisville

Day of prayer May 3

Editor:

In 1988, our United States Congress passed a bill making the first Thursday of each May a National Day of Prayer. Last year the day was ignored by the news media in our country and our Southern Baptists didn't seem to know about it.

There is a National Day of Prayer Task Force which is working hard to get the news to people. The theme for 1990 is "Renewing American Moral Heritage." This year the date will be Thursday, May 3. Let us as Southern Baptists lead our state in making this day a meaningful day of prayer for our nation. Remember our promise in 2 Chronicles 7:14.

For more information, contact:
The National Day of Prayer Task Force
P. O. Box 6826
San Bernadino, CA 92412
(714) 882-9932

By the way, I enjoy reading the **Baptist Record.**

Georgia McCormick
Caesar, MS
Union Baptist Church

Divorced ministers

Editor:

It seems to me the pastor who answered the letter about divorced ministers completely ignored what was said, that some preachers were not at fault and did not desire a divorce but had no control over what was happening.

In that case, why would they need the church to forgive them?

When the church forces them to resign, I still say the church is judging them and, in some cases, condemning them. Why not let them prove themselves? If they are wrong, then God will take care of that.

When God calls a man to preach his Word, I believe the man has many hardships and disappointments to face. Sometimes we, people of the churches, look at him as not needing our help and words of encouragement.

Yes, I am sure there are many other things in the ministry that he can do to glorify our Lord. In some cases, something else may be what God wants. Again, I think God will take care of that in his way, not the peoples' way.

Name withheld
by editor

Recorded worship and praise

Editor:

I just want to express my appreciation for the timely cartoon in the April 19 issue. I am a member of a small country church which has a very fine piano and organ. Nevertheless, when we have any special music, whether by choir, quartet, solo, etc., it is almost always accompanied by a tape. The words of the song are always completely lost to me, drowned by the background music.

Easter morning I attended a large city church which has a better-than-average music program. That day the excellent musicians sat by their silent instruments while our ears were assaulted by weird taped sounds during the offering.

Never did I think we could have anything worse than the so-called "Christian" rock. Certainly, this is no better. I can twist a dial on my radio and hear that sort of music anytime. When I go to a worship service, give me music that is conducive to worship and praise.

Mrs. Alice Morris
Union Church

Some who served

Editor:

Amid concern that "moderates" and "non-aligned" have not been included in appointments, the following are just a few well-known persons who have served in major positions during the past 11 years:

Dan Vestal: chairman, committee on boads

Steve Tondera: second vice-presidential nominee; committee on nominations.

James Dunn: committee on nominations

LaVonn Brown: committee on nominations

James Strickland: chairman, credentials committee

Winfred Moore: tellers committee; Peace Committee

George Harris: committee on committees

Phil Lineberger: committee on committees

Richard Jackson: committee on committees; Home Mission Board

Charles Fuller: Peace Committee chairman; committee on nominations

Lynn Clayton, committee on nominations

Joel Gregory: annual sermon

Abner McCall: parliamentarian

Perhaps we need to be reminded of this.

John R. Bisagno
Houston, Texas

Readers will note that not all of the above are "moderate" or "non-aligned." Of course, Steve Tondera has not been nominated for second vice-president as yet but no doubt will be. The list above represents 13 people over a stretch of 11 years. — Editor

Mississippi Passion Play

Editor:

On Palm Sunday weekend, I was privileged and blessed to witness the Passion Play given at Richburg Church of the Lamar Association. This is the third year the church has presented the play, which started as a project of the youth adult Sunday School class taught by Dr. Mary Jane Myers. The members of this group wrote the script, built props and sets, made costumes, organized the production, and acted the parts. The lovely outdoor setting on the rise behind the church richly enhanced the ingenuity and the creative talents of these people. They have created a most inspiring and touching depiction of Christ's last days — a moving visual of Christ's love for mankind.

These young adults, along with the many other people who have joined to help the group, are to be applauded for the dedication, time, effort, and love which they have given to this venture. It is evident that their purpose is . . . TO GOD BE THE GLORY.

Juanita West
Newton

The Blackmun visit

Editor:

In a March 29 editorial you lavishly praised Supreme Court Justice Harry Blackmun who had recently spoken at a Washington briefing, sponsored by the Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs, for the editors of the Baptist state newspapers.

You failed to mention that Justice Blackmun is the author and foremost supporter of the **Roe v. Wade** decision that legalized abortion on demand.

In that decision Justice Blackmun decreed that a mother has a constitutional right to kill her unborn baby for any reason or no reason at any time in her pregnancy. In creating this right out of thin air, Justice Blackmun indulged in arrogant judicial legislation without any basis in the Constitution or American jurisprudence.

Indeed Justice Blackmun's fervent support for abortion on demand has not waned or wavered since his **Roe** opinion. Just last year he denounced as "shameful" the very limited restrictions on abortion that the Supreme Court upheld in **Webster v. Reproductive Human Services.**

Since Justice Blackmun's **Roe v. Wade** decision in 1973, over 25 million babies have been aborted in America. The blood of those murdered millions is on Justice Blackmun's hands.

That is why it is an outrage for the Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs to invite Justice Blackmun to speak at the briefing.

I do not understand why you failed to identify Justice Blackmun as the author of the **Roe** decision. I am certain that your readers would be interested to know that the Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs spent their tithes to provide Justice Blackmun with a platform for his pro-abortion views.

Mark Henry
First church, Columbia

The "lavish praise" was to say that Blackmun "turned out to be an engaging personality and a delightful speaker." — Editor

Piano needed

Editor:

A mission church in Jackson is seeking a donated piano in good condition. Please contact me for additional information.

Richard Brogan
Cooperative Mission Department.
Mississippi Baptist Convention Board

Bibles for Russia

Editor:

We have all been watching with excitement as events have unfolded in Eastern Europe, offering more freedom to the people there. Appeals have gone out from several sources for money to send Bibles to Russia and the other communist countries, but we've heard little from Southern Baptists. I called the Foreign Mission Board to determine if there were channels set up for sending gifts for that purpose; and I was assured that designated gifts accepted by the Foreign Mission Board, P. O. Box 6767, Richmond, VA., 23230, will be delivered to their destination.

This is such a crucial time and we must do our part in getting the Word of God into these countries while we have this opportunity. As mission budgets have already been set and funds cannot be diverted from the areas to which they are committed in most cases, it appears that we must plan to give especially for this purpose. I believe that many are eager to contribute and prefer to do this through our own agency if given the necessary information and enough publicity.

As the **Baptist Record** is our major means of communication, I hope that you will lead in promoting an effort to raise funds for Bibles and other Christian literature to be sent to those who have had so little while we have had so much.

Ann Dean
Hernando

Prentiss senior adults: "active and alive"

By Anne W. McWilliams

Senior adults of Prentiss Church call themselves the AAAs — Active, Alive Adults. Certainly no unalive, unalert adults could do all they are doing for each other, their church, their community, their environment, and the world in general.

Tom Myers, the minister of senior adults and outreach, said that the church has about 115 senior adults enrolled but not all are active.

Reaching out to help each other, they have set up a telephone assurance program. Each of the 12 or 15 persons who needs or wants to be checked on regularly has been assigned a partner. This partner calls once or twice daily and, if there is no reply, calls a neighbor to check on the shut-in.

"We go and do little maintenance jobs for those who need it, like changing light bulbs," said Myers. Also the AAAs have a transportation ministry, manned by Myers, who will take any senior adult who calls him wherever he or she needs to go — to doctor, grocery store, church, or other place.

Those in the group who take part in the "Vial of Life" place their insurance papers and other important health information in a vial and set it in the refrigerator. A "Vial of Life" sticker on the front door indicates that the resident of the house will have placed that important information in the refrigerator. Why the refrigerator? "Because anybody who suddenly needs that information can surely find the refrigerator!" said Myers.

In the area of health, too, the church has a roomful of wheelchairs and walkers, plus an air-conditioner and three hospital beds. Not only can senior adults of the church use these items from the Health Aid Bank, as they call it, but anyone in the town or community may borrow any of these that they need. Certain senior adults deliver them as needs demand.

To reach out to the community, the AAAs teach Bible classes for the homebound; in a nursing home; low-income apartment complex; and at the jail.

Beryl Harper, the church's prayer chairman, teaches the Sunday School lesson to each of the church's homebound members at least once a month. Also she delivers church literature and sends get-well cards to hospital patients and other types of cards in a ministry by mail. Tapes of church services are also delivered to the homebound.

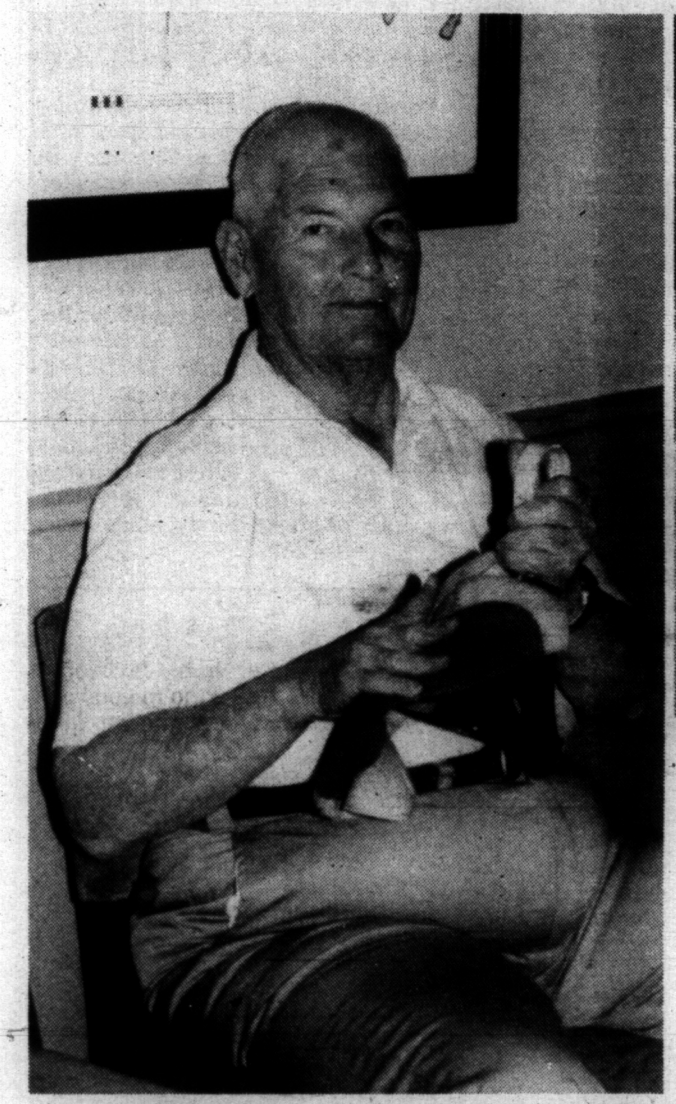
Mary Frances Hughes teaches a Bible class each Sunday afternoon at 2:30 in an apartment complex building. Wayne Coulter teaches a Bible class on Sunday mornings at a nursing home. Franklin Hughes teaches a Bible class Wednesday at the jail. R. A. Coulter, a retired minister who is at present interim pastor of Topisaw Church, also helps in the jail ministry and leads the Bible study there on Thursdays. In addition, Hughes is on call, day and night, to go to the jail and witness to prisoners. (See story on this next week.)

To help out in their church, several senior adult women sometimes assist the church secretary, Linda Pace, in such ways as folding bulletins, typing, stuffing envelopes, or whatever miscellaneous jobs she assigns them. Among these are Evelyn Jones, Thedis Chance, Blanche Jones, and Betty Newsome. One church clean-up job some might not think of doing has been taken over by a retired dentist, Jim Byrne. He polishes the handbells.

To show concern for the environment, the AAAs have adopted a two-mile stretch of highway at the edge of Prentiss, where they pick up litter alongside the strip of blacktop.

Beyond the community of Prentiss, they reach out through mission trips. This summer they plan to go to Gautier to minister in nursing homes, doing hair and nails of the residents and leading in devotional times and Bible studies.

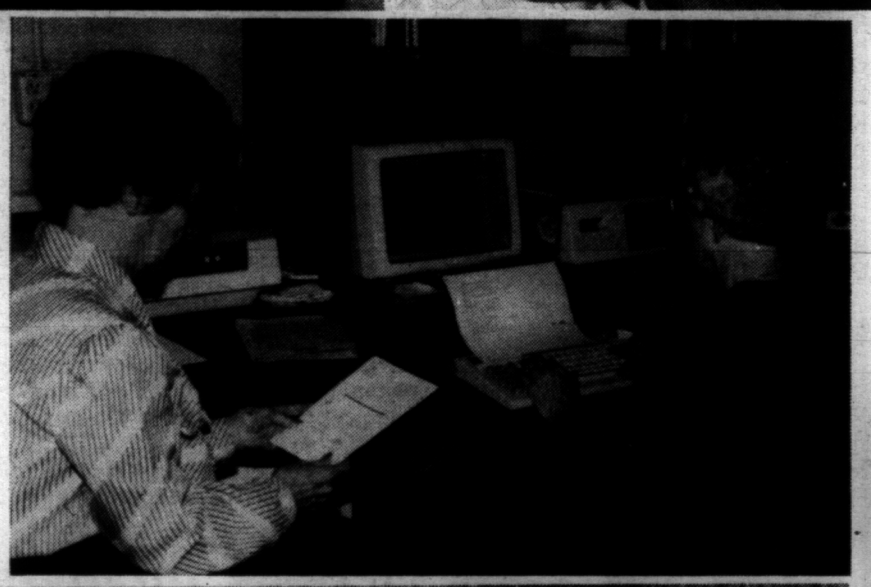
We salute you, AAAs of Prentiss, as Senior Adult Day nears.

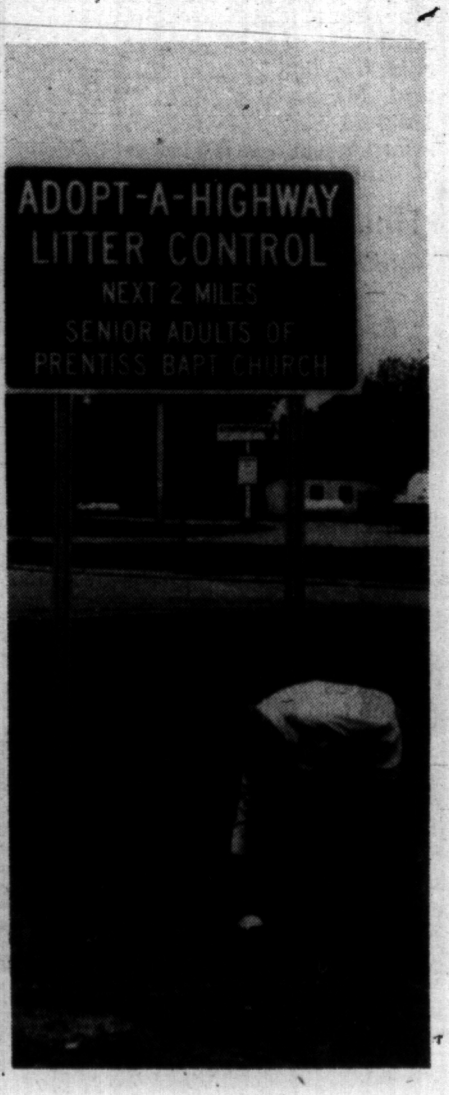












Left to right, clockwise: Jim Byrne, retired dentist, polishes a handbell; H. C. Green and Tom Myers, minister of senior adults at Prentiss Church, deliver a wheelchair from the church's Health Aid Bank; Blanche Jones helps prepare church bulletins; Mary Frances Hughes teaches a Bible lesson at an apartment complex; Franklin Hughes picks up litter on senior adults' adopted highway; Thedis Chance at typewriter and Evelyn Jones assist with work in the church office.



AAA Choir practices as Tom Mercier, music minister, directs. Back row, lef tto right: Jim Byrne, Tom Myers, Evelyn Jones, Thedis Chance, Vera Palmer (a visitor), Franklin Hughes, H. C. Greene, Bill Mayfield, and Ernest Stephens. Front row, left to right: Betty Newsome, Mary Walker, Beryl Harper, Blanche Jones, Mary Frances Hughes. Betty Coulter is the accompanist. Choir members not pictured: Maggie Bridges, Ruth Dale, Charlene Daniels, Alla Faye Fike, Susie Griffith, Marguerite Hammers, Mary Lou Holloway, Lavelle Magee, Margie Magee, Maggie Mahaffey, Cathleen Parker, Myrt Polk, Kathryn Price, Eloine Smith, Rene Speed, Bessie Williams, and Wilma Wilson.



College music scholarship award recipients were, from left, Melanie Hughes, DeVona Ladner, Paula Goodman, and Tamra Smith.

Scholarships are awarded at Youth Four Part Music Festival



Diana Freeman of Newton and Christy Johnson of Brandon received superior ratings in the vocal part of the festival.



Melanie Hughes of Walthall and Robert Baldwin of Laurel were recipients of the judge's award for piano.

The State Youth Four Part Music Festival was held at Alta Woods Church, Jackson, on March 3. This festival is sponsored by the Church Music Department of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board, L. Graham Smith, director.

In the keyboard part of the festival, four participants were awarded college music scholarships to a Mississippi school. When a participant chooses to attend a Mississippi Baptist college, that college matches the scholarship award presented by the Church Music Department of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board. The 1990 recipients are Tamra Smith, Southaven; Paula Goodman, Pelahatchie; DeVona Ladner, Sandersville; and Melanie Hughes Walthall. Melanie also received the judge's award in piano, as did Robert Baldwin of Laurel.

Each participant who received superior in all areas of adjudication was presented a partial scholarship to a Baptist summer music event at Gulfshore Assembly, Ridgecrest, or Glorieta.

In addition, the following received this scholarship award: Tammy Creel, Carson; Elizabeth Webb, Amory; Tonya Louise West, Waynesboro; Meredith Futral, Ocean Springs; Rebecca Measells, Morton; Kristi Melton, Petal; Amy L. Boggan, Hickory; Gina Gordon, Taylorsville; Wendy Brillhart, Ocean Springs; Rhonda Smith, Laurel; Patricia Nowell, Soso.

Dot Pray coordinated the keyboard part of the festival and is the keyboard contract consultant for the Church Music Department.

Receiving a superior rating in the vocal part of the festival were Dana Freeman from Newton and Christy Johnson from Brandon. Dana and Christy were awarded partial scholarships to a Baptist summer music event at either Gulfshore Assembly, Ridgecrest, or Glorieta. Susan Clark, contract consultant for the Church Music Department, coordinated the vocal part of the festival.

Mikki Lewis from McComb was the recipient of a partial scholarship to a Baptist summer music event for a superior rating received in the conducting part of the Four Part Festival. Mikki also participated in the vocal and instrumental parts of the festival.

Brian Lowe of Winona participated in the instrumental part of the festival and was awarded a college music scholarship to a Mississippi school. Brian plans to attend Mississippi College, where the music department will match the scholarship awarded him by the Church Music Department. John Hanbery, contract consultant for the Church Music Department, coordinated the conducting and instrumental parts of the festival.



Mikki Lewis



Brian Lowe

Revival results

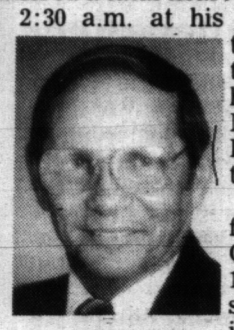
Baxterville Church (Lamar): April 1-5; Steve Jacks, Monroe, N.C., preaching; Jim Thornhill, Franklinton, La., music; 15 professions of faith; one by letter; William Quartrone, pastor.

Hope Church, Philadelphia (Neshoba): April 19-21; Eddie Pilgrim, Carthage, preaching; William Crenshaw, music; one profession of faith; one rededication; James H. Young, Jr., pastor.

Pearl Hill Church, Carthage (Leake): March 18-21; Ken Harrison, Magee, preaching; two professions of faith; one statement of faith; several rededications; Eddie Pilgrim, pastor; Louie Perry, music director.

Maybank pastor dies of heart attack

William Eugene (Bill) Mitchell suffered a fatal heart attack April 14 at 2:30 a.m. at his home near Hattiesburg. At the time of his death he was pastor of Maybank Church, Lebanon Association.



Mitchell

After graduating from William Carey College in 1956, Mitchell served pastorates in northeast Mississippi at Temple and Old Oak Grove churches in Myrtle and at Priceville Church, Tupelo. He later became Director of Admissions at William Carey College and held this position for several years.

In 1966, he became pastor of Rawls Spring Church, Hattiesburg, and served there 17 years. While at Rawls Springs he led the church to begin a mission which later became the Maybank Church. Following a pastorate at Union Church, Covington Association, he became pastor of Maybank Church in 1988. He was active in all phases of the Lebanon Association and served in numerous positions of associational leadership.

In 1983, Mitchell organized Golden Age Ministries, a non-profit corporation which ministered to nursing home residents in the Hattiesburg area. He was assisted in this work by his wife, Betty Mitchell.

Mitchell is survived by his wife, of Hattiesburg; a daughter, Mrs. Beth Murphy, Hattiesburg; two sons, Bobby and David, also of Hattiesburg; three sisters, Mrs. Edna Earle Leggett of Poplarville, Miss., Mrs. Elaine Moody of Springfield, La., and Mrs. Mary Ann Gunter of Gonzales, La.; and two brothers, Harry Mitchell of San Antonio, Texas, and J. C. Mitchell of Columbus, director of missions, Golden Triangle Association.

Here's Hope

(Continued from page 2)

Archie said the preparation material was the best he had used. He went by the suggestions: and his people got involved in praying, visiting, telephoning, attending, and bringing others to the services. The pastor said, "If you wait until the week of the revival to visit, you've waited too long. The people did the work. The results came."

Guy Henderson is director of evangelism for Mississippi Baptists.

John Wesley White will lead Greater Grenada Crusade

John Wesley White, associate of Billy Graham, will lead an eight-day evangelistic crusade at the Grenada High School Auditorium May 6-13, according to Sherman Barnette, crusade chairman.

The crusade will be jointly sponsored by area churches and the Billy Graham Evangelistic Association.

All services will be at the Grenada High School Auditorium at 7:30 p.m.

A native of Canada, White has traveled to 82 countries, preaching the gospel from Britain to Australia, from South Africa to Russia, and extensively throughout North America. In one crusade alone, more than 500 responded to commitment to Christ; and more than 14,923 attended the eight-day crusade.

Another Graham team member, a crusade coordinator, Lew Blanchard, has already spent much time in the area, giving guidance to local committees.

Special guest musician for Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday evenings will be Dennis Agajanean. Tuesday, Wednesday, and Saturday nights will be Youth Emphasis nights. Agajanean will lead a special "After Glow" for the youth on Tuesday night.

Special guest musician for Thursday and Friday nights will be Myrtle Hall Smith, soloist with Billy Graham crusades.

High court rejects anti-dancing case

WASHINGTON (BP) — The Supreme Court has refused to review a dispute over whether high school dances should be allowed in a small Missouri community.

A group of high school students and their parents from Purdy, Mo., charged the local school board's anti-dancing rule promoted the religious beliefs of the town's fundamentalist churches. The rule, which has been in place for a number of years, prohibits dancing on school premises.

When the students petitioned to have the rule changed, members of the town's Ministerial Alliance — made up of the pastors of five churches, including First Baptist Church of Purdy — voiced their opposition and enlisted their congregations to oppose the change, calling dancing a "sin."

In a closed-door session, the school board rejected the students' request. The students and their parents then filed suit against the school board.

A federal district court held the Purdy School Board's actions on the dancing question violated the First Amendment's establishment clause. The anti-dancing rule, the court said, is "inherently religious."

But a panel of the Circuit Court of Appeals reversed that decision, holding that since dancing is a secular activity, the rule is neutral. The religious effect of the rule, the panel said, is "indirect, remote and incidental."

By a 5 to 4 vote, the full appeals court refused to rehear the case.

Burkes will speak at Clarke

Wayne Burkes, highway commissioner for central Mississippi, and former pastor of Bolton Church, will be guest speaker for graduation exercises at Clarke College on May 15.



Burkes

Burkes has served in both the state's Senate and House of Representatives. He retired from the Mississippi Air National Guard as major general. Recently he spoke during chapel services at Clarke.

Q & A on drugs . . .

I suffer from headaches. My doctor has prescribed medication for them. Can headache medication be addictive?

The answer is yes and no, depending on the medication. Common pain medications (Tylenol #3, Empirin #3, Tylox, Darvon, etc.) which are often prescribed for headaches, contain narcotics which are related to morphine and heroin and can be addictive if abused. Other headache medications (Fiorinal, Axotal, Esgic, etc.) contain barbiturates which also can be addictive if abused. Medications such as Fiorinal #3 contain both a barbiturate and a narcotic, so the potential for addiction is increased. Physicians often prescribe minor tranquilizers (Xanax, Ativan, Valium, etc.) for tension headaches. These also can be addictive if abused. A significant number of patients in this group become addicted when the drugs are taken for over two to three months as prescribed.

Other headache medications pose no addiction danger. Common pain medications (aspirin, Tylenol, Motrin, Advil, etc.) are, of course, not addictive. Muscle relaxants (Flexeril, Robaxin, Soma, etc.), prescribed for tension headaches, make some individuals sleepy but are not addictive. Prophylactic medications for migrane headaches (Inderal, Elavil, Calon, etc.) are also nonaddictive.

If there is concern about medication, it should be discussed with a physician.

Please send all your questions about drug and alcohol dependency to Chaplain Don Nerren, 1225 N. State St., Jackson, MS 39202-2002, or call toll free outside Jackson at 1-800-962-6868 or in Jackson at 968-1102. All questions will be answered in letter form whether or not they appear in this column.

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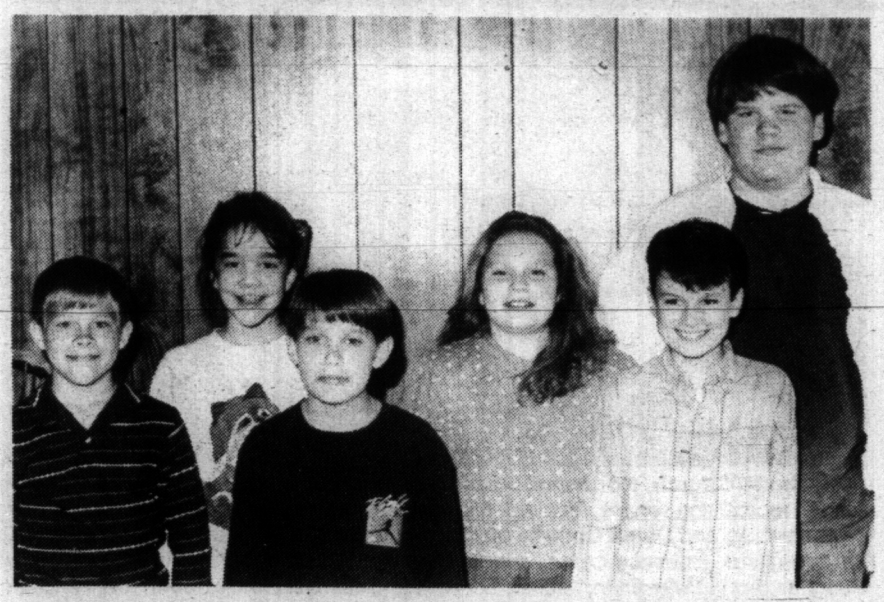
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CHILDREN'S PAGE



Winners are announced and prizes awarded March 4 in First Church, Water Valley's lay renewal poster contest. Winners were (from left) Jeremy Flippin, Kellie Burns, John Walker, Angela Weeks, Casey Hart, and Brian Gurner. — Photo by Betty Shearer

Poster winners named

Winners were announced and prizes were awarded in First Church, Water Valley's Poster Contest March 4. The contest was a promotion to advertise the church's first lay renewal weekend, held on March 30, 31, and April 1.

Posters were judged in two categories, Grades 3-5 and Grades 6-8, on creativity; neatness; overall appearance; and how well they publicized the Lay Renewal Weekend.

Poster contest winners were: Grades 6-8: Brian Gurner, 8th Grade, who was presented a Bible and a $5.00 Sonic gift certificate; Grades 3-5; 1st place, Jeremy Flippin, 5th Grade, a Bible and $5.00 Sonic gift certificate; 2nd, John Walker, 4th Grade, New Testament and $3.00 Sonic gift certificate; 3rd, Angela Weeks, 4th Grade, New Testament and $2.00 Sonic gift certificate. Honorable Mentions were Casey Hart, 5th Grade; Jill Hyde, 4th Grade; Jonathan Bass, 3rd Grade; and Kellie Burns, 3rd Grade, who each was awarded a silver dollar.



Children collect pennies by the foot

Children of Moorhead Church, Sunflower Association, led the church in going well over its goal for the Annie Armstrong Easter Offering for home missions. The total gifts were $951.12. The children collected pennies "by the foot" for a total of 18,483 ($184.83) which was 1,155 feet of pennies (16 pennies per foot) and weighed 123 pounds and three ounces. Mrs. Douglas Russell was the chairperson.

"The entire church family was inspired by our children to really become more involved in home missions," said Wilbur Webb, pastor.

A new teacher took over her class. "What's your name?" she asked one little boy.

"Jule," he said.

"Not Jule. Nicknames are not allowed. Your name is Julius." She turned to the next boy. "What's your name?"

"Billious," came the reply.

A school teacher reports that she was lecturing her class on the history of immigration and asked, "Do any of you know that many of the foreigners who came here were brought as indentured servants? Do any of you know what an indentured servant is?" There was a pause and a faint voice answered: "Isn't that a slave with false teeth?"

Memories of Grandmother

My thoughts go to my grandmother, as I've finished making a batch of her teacakes. I wasn't too pleased with them, as I had to substitute margarine for butter. The dough was hard to handle and although they were good, they were not exactly her recipe. They were not the light color and, while cooking, they spread too easily.

She died when I was 9, but I have a lifetime of memories of her. She used to go to the milk-house to milk the cows, and I remember her singing, "Oh, How I Love Jesus." So every time I hear this or we sing it in church, my thoughts go to Grandma Golmon. My sister and I used to visit her, my grandfather, Great-Aunt Melissa, and Aunt Bea every summer. We learned to do the chores they did. I remember the blessings at every meal and washing the dishes with warm water from a wood stove. I remember too, taking old scissors and cutting the grass between the bricks (walk) and sweeping the yard clean of grasses.

My grands lived in Lincoln County, on a big farm. I'm sure it was hard times for them, but oh, what it seemed to me!

She died in 1941, but her influence still lives today. Her father, Zachariah Godbold, was a charter member of the Damascus Baptist Church in Franklin County.

My Aunt Bea, now deceased, gave me this teacake recipe of my grandma's. I know I fell short of perfecting the tea cakes this time, and I'll try not to do this again. Since her life means so much, I'll just have to make them correctly.

And yes, Grandma, I'm glad I touched shoulders with you, Anne Golmon.

—Anne G. Shoemaker
Waynesboro

Facts about the BAPTIST RECORD

- 118,000 copies printed each week
- Donald T. McGregor, 9th editor
- Started February 1877
- 80 miles of paper used each week
- 6 tons of paper used each week
- Papers stacked by a building would go 58 stories high each week



Americans spend nearly 250 million visitor days in our national forests each year.



The penguin, a bird that can swim but can't fly, can go as fast as 25 miles per hour underwater.



The fourth, and most recent, ice age melted off the northern Canadian mainland barely 6,000 years ago.



Dear Pen Pal,

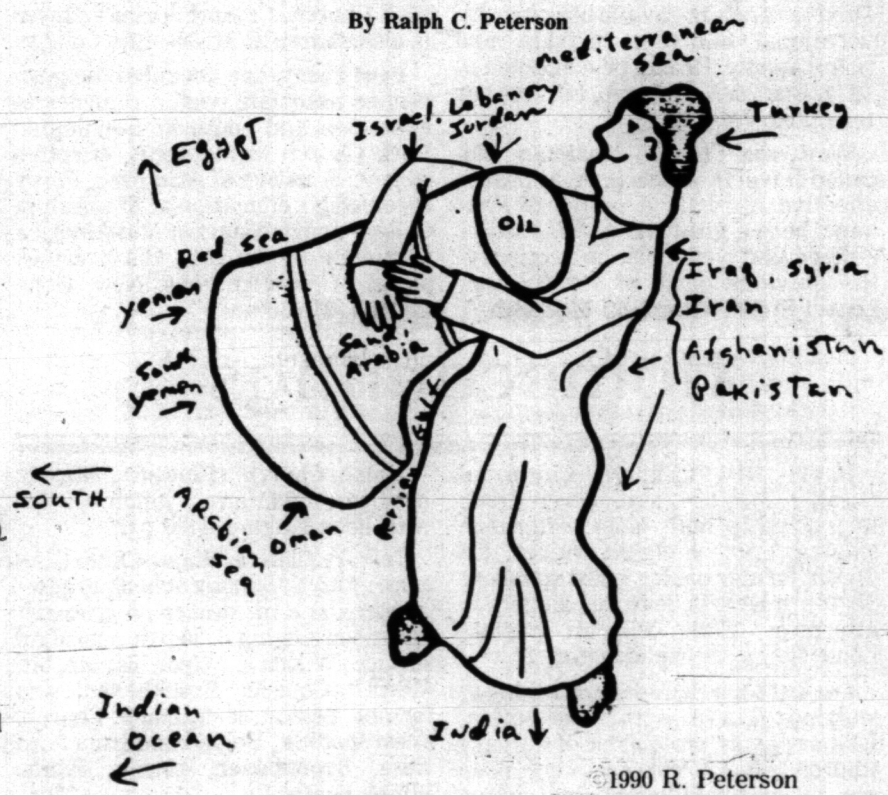
My name is Cassie Stewart. I go to Prentiss Elm. I hope you will be my Pen Pal. I like to skate and swim. I go to White Sand Baptist Church. I am a G.A. and I am 10 years old.

Love,
Cassie Stewart
Rt. 1 Box 163A
New Hebron, MS 39140

P.S. I would like to have a Pen Pal, Bye.

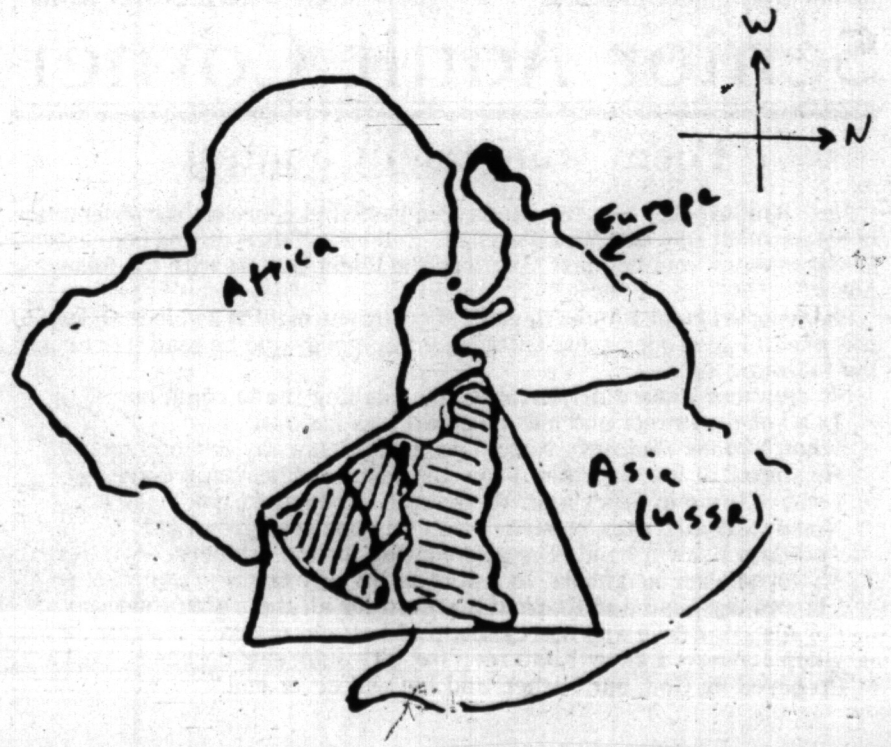
GEOGRAFUN:
Nations and Imaginations

By Ralph C. Peterson



©1990 R. Peterson

The rotated map of the Near and Middle East looks a bit like a woman holding an oil drum. The Middle East has much of the world's oil supply.



First, Jackson, plans seminar: "Creating order out of chaos"

"Creating Order out of Chaos" seminar will be held May 11 and 12 at First Church, Jackson, in Fellowship Hall East. The seminar will begin Friday at 7 p.m. and close Saturday at noon.

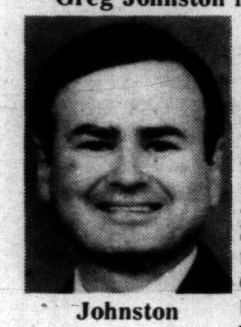
This will be led by Jim and Sally Conway, nationally known speakers and authors, featured guests on "Focus on the Family" by James Dobson and writers of such books as **Men in Mid-Life Crisis, Your Husband's Mid-Life Crisis, Your Marriage Can Survive Mid-Life Crisis,** and **Friendship.** The Conways are directors of Mid-Life Dimensions.

Some issues to be addressed are understanding each other's midlife needs; potential problems; effective communication; fun, leisure, and humor; personal growth; and parenting.

The cost will be $13.00 at the door.

Staff changes

Greg Johnston has been called as pastor of Fair River Church, Brookhaven.



Johnston

A native of McComb, he is a graduate of William Carey College and New Orleans Seminary. He goes to Fair River Church from Union Church, Tylertown.

Bob Goolsby has resigned the pastorate of Victory Church (Jeff Davis) and is available for bivocational ministry, revivals, and pulpit supply. He can be contacted at Rt. 1, Box 268A, Kokomo, MS 39643 or telephone 736-8073.

Westwood Church, Meridian, has called **David R. Mitchell, Jr.** as pastor, effective April 15. A native of Pontotoc, he is a graduate of Mississippi College and New Orleans Seminary. His previous place of service was Locust Street Church in McComb.

Jimmy Kettleman has been called to McAdams Church in Attala County as pastor. He began his ministry on April 22. Kettleman will graduate from New Orleans Seminary in August.

Baxterville Church, Lamar Association, has called **Jipper Williford** as minister of youth, effective Feb. 12. A native of Louisiana, Williford is in his first year at William Carey College.

New Zion Church, Braxton, has called Jamie Hayes as minister of music and youth, effective April 20. His previous place of service was New Zion Church, Crystal Springs. Hayes is a freshman at Mississippi College.

Paul Posey, has accepted the position as associate pastor, minister of education and youth at Bennington Park Church in Memphis, effective April 9. A native of Arkansas, Posey received his education at Mississippi College and will start at Mid-America Seminary in the fall. His previous place of service was New Hope Church, Meridian.

Homecomings

Pearl Hill Church, Carthage (Leake): May 6; 11 a.m.; covered dish in fellowship hall, noon; afternoon singing, 1:30; no night services; Ed Smith, former pastor, guest speaker; Southern Hearts, featured singers in afternoon; Eddie Pilgrim, pastor; Louie Perry, music director.

Carmel Church, Monticello: May 6; worship, 11 a.m. with Mike Sutton, former pastor, now pastor of Calvary Church, Silver Creek, speaking; noon meal served in fellowship hall; afternoon services, Robert L. Dunn, former pastor, now pastor of Dublin Church, Prentiss, speaking, and following noteburning ceremonies for children's annex; Swain Lambert and the Majestics will lead in music; Johnny Sykes, interim pastor.

Union Church (Rankin): May 6; services, 10:45 a.m.; lunch served; afternoon singing, 1:30 p.m.

Calvary Church, Bogue Chitto (Lincoln): May 6; Sunday School, 10 a.m.; worship, 11 a.m; dinner on grounds; afternoon singing, 1:30 p.m. ; no night service; Wilson E. "Gene" Erwin, Mt. Moriah Church, Brookhaven, and former pastor of Calvary Church, guest speaker; Roland and Irma Jean Ross, Brookhaven, music; Emon White, pastor.

Carey Church (Sharkey/Issaquena): May 6; 10:30 a.m.; covered dish on grounds at noon; afternoon singing, 1:30 p.m.; no night services; Charles Wesley, Cleveland, guest speaker; Shepherds of Love, Mize, guest singers; John L. Searcy, pastor.

Senior Adult Corner

Poem wins talent contest

Next Sunday, May 6, is the Sunday suggested to churches for observance of Senior Adult Day 1990. Mrs. Pearlie R. Sullivan of Mize, during her church's senior citizens' meeting last May, won the talent contest with the following poem.

She reported to the **Baptist Record,** "I got up one night at 2 o'clock and wrote this poem. I gave our pastor, Giles Hankins, a copy and he read it in church the following Sunday:

"I dreamed I heard my Savior's voice calling me to come home,
In a voice so sweet and low, he said I was his own.
When I heard his lovely voice, I dreamed I saw my Savior's face.
He smiled at me, and then I saw the wondrous heavenly place.
I saw a home in Gloryland; the streets were purest gold.
No envy, death, pain, or strife — and no one ever grows old.
And then I saw a band of angels waiting for me up there —
My loved ones, neighbors, too, were in the city fair.
I bowed my head and thanked my Lord for all the sights I saw,
For his great love and mercy too, that brought me safe thus far.
When I awoke, I knew I had seen the city John saw descend
Prepared by God, our Father, and life will never end."

Just for the Record

New Salem Church, Liberty, will have ground breaking services for its church building, on May 5. Services will begin at 10 a.m. with dinner on the grounds following. There will be afternoon singing and the ground breaking service at 1:30 p.m. New Salem Church began as a mission two and a half years ago and recently was organized as a church in the Mississippi Association. David R. Fortenberry, a student at New Orleans Seminary, is pastor.

Lifeline Mission, Florence, recently celebrated its sixth annual community picnic at the church. Over 100 hamburgers and other dishes were served to members of the church and community. Many activities were scheduled for the children, but some had to be canceled because of light rain showers. But inside the church, many heard the gospel singing by the Gospel New Ways, The Missionaries, Amy Culpepper, Andrea Brown, Mrs. Elena Brown, and the pastor of the church, Kenneth Brown.

The congregation of Bethel Church, Leake Association, released approximately 350 balloons carrying the plan of salvation, at 12:15 p.m. on Easter Sunday. The first balloon was reported found at 4:50 p.m. that same day at Grove Hill, Ala. Lamar Burkes is pastor.

Memorial Day services will be held at **Providence Church, Grenada,** on May 6, at 11 a.m. J. C. Hall will conduct the services with Larry Gober leading the singing and Sandy Putman playing the piano.

Pine Grove Church, Picayune, to celebrate 125th anniversary

Pine Grove Church, Picayune, will celebrate its 125th anniversary on May 6. The schedule is 10 a.m., Sunday School; 11 a.m., anniversary worship; dinner on the grounds, noon; and 1 p.m., celebration and building dedication. In the past three years the church has baptized 105 and had 89 join by letter, according to Patty Miller, church secretary.



Arkabutla Church, Northwest Association, recently held an Acteen coronation and GA recognition service. Pictured, first row, are crown bearers: Beau House, Herbert Petermann Jr., and Daniel Cavanaugh; second row, Amanda Scott, Melanie Johnson, Carrie Willard, Rebecca Lentz, and Becky Allen; third row, Sabrina Willard, Kelly Maughan, Anna Petermann, Alicia Broadway, and Jennifer House; fourth row, Amanda Taylor, Mary Ann Twilley, Melisa Smith, Lanae Patrick, Carrie Allen, Mary Petermann, and Laura Littleton.

Westwood Church, Meridian, exceeded its Annie Armstrong offering goal of $1,800 on March 11. A total of $2,559.22 was given during the home mission emphasis. Ann Culpepper was responsible for the home mission offering emphasis. Paulette Hopkins is WMU director. Gordon Sansing was serving as interim pastor during this time.

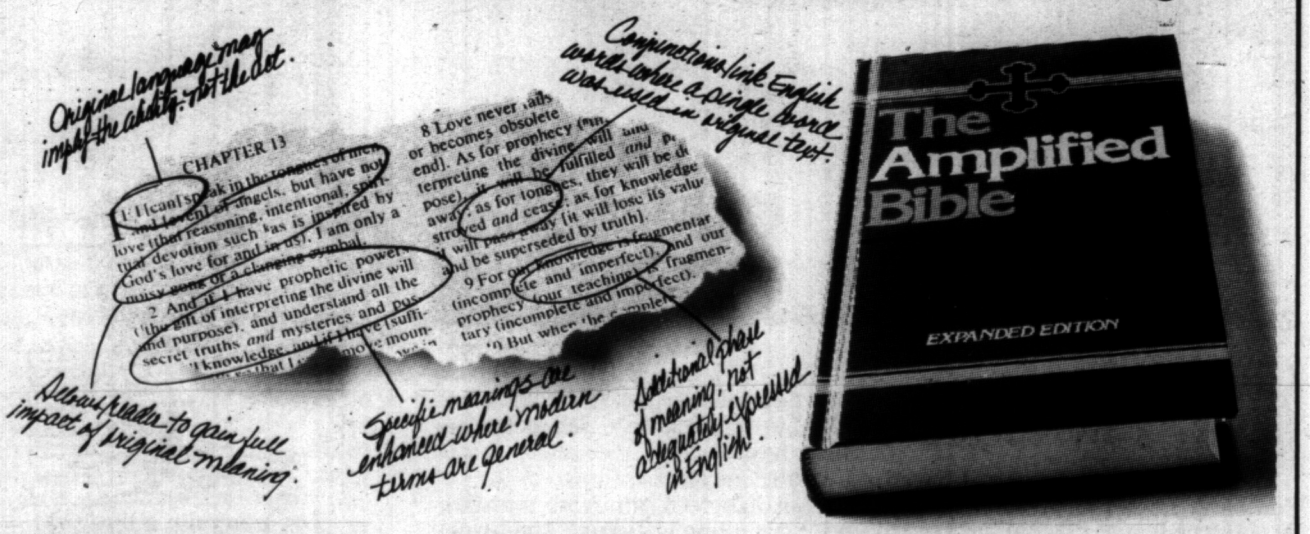
Fredonia Church, New Albany, gave $2,000 to the Annie Armstrong Easter Offering for Home Missions. This represented the largest home missions offering ever given by the church and exceeded last year's record amount of $1,200. The entire amount was received during a March for Home Missions emphasis on April 8. Gregg Thomas is pastor.

Mississippi Baptist activities

May 6	Senior Adult Day (DT Emphasis)
May 7	WMU Special Day and Edwina Robinson Offering (WMU Emphasis)
May 7-11	MasterLife Workshop; 38th Avenue BC, Hattiesburg; 6:30 p.m.; 7th-Noon, 11th (DT)

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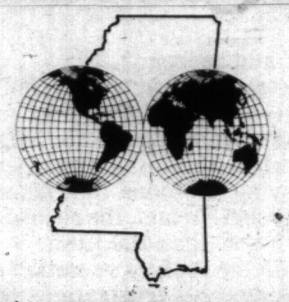
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Evangelism Report



Helping To Bring Mississippi And The World To Jesus!

	Churches Reporting	Gospel Presentations	Number of Conversions
Adams			
Alcorn			
Attala			
Benton-Tippah			
Bolivar			
Calhoun	8	8	2
Carroll	1	5	5
Chickasaw			
Choctaw	3	9	4
Clarke	4	30	7
Clay			
Copiah			
Covington	1	6	1
Franklin	19	4	4
George	1	2	1
Greene	1	5	5
Grenada			
Gulfcoast			
Hinds-Madison	1	5	5
Holmes			
Humphreys			
Itawamba			
Jackson	11	12	10
Jasper			
Jeff Davis			
Jones			
Kemper			
Lafayette			
Lamar			
Lauderdale			
Lawrence			
Leake			
Lebanon	4	9	3
Lee			
Leflore			
Lincoln			
Lowndes			
Marion			
Marshall			
Mississippi			
Monroe			
Montgomery			
Neshoba			
New Choctaw			
Newton			
North Delta			
Northwest			
Noxubee			
Oktibbeha	1	1	1
Panola	5	1	1
Pearl River			
Perry			
Pike			
Pontotoc	3	20	15
Prentiss			
Rankin			
Scott			
Sharkey-Issaquena			
Simpson			
Smith			
Sunflower			
Tallahatchie			
Tishomingo			
Union			
Union Co.			
Walthall			
Warren			
Washington			
Wayne			
Webster	3	12	6
Winston			
Yalobusha			
Yazoo			

Revival dates

Fredonia Church, New Albany: April 29-May 2; service times at 10:45 a.m. and 6:45 p.m., Sunday; and 7 p.m. Mon.-Wed. Speaker will be Horace C. Thomas, pastor of Springdale Church, Ripley. Music led by David McClure, minister of music at Fredonia. Gregg Thomas is pastor.

Georgetown Church (Copiah): May 6-9; Sunday, 11 a.m. and 6 p.m.; Mon.-Wed., 7 p.m.; Russ McCleland, Harmony Church, Crystal Springs, evangelist; W. J. Nelson, Jayess, music; Lloyd Wilson, pastor.

West Jackson Church, Jackson: May 6-9; Sunday, 11 a.m. and 7 p.m.; Mon.-Wed., noon and 7 p.m.; Larry Dunlap, pastor, West Jackson Church, evangelist; Rell Webber, West Jackson Church, music.

Friendship Church, Aberdeen: May 13-16; Mike Warren, pastor, Monument Drive Church, Tupelo, evangelist; John Bailey, First Church, Lake Charles, La., music; Sunday, 6 p.m.; Mon.-Wed., 7 p.m.; high attendance day for Sunday School and Discipleship Training, Sunday; Todd Bowen, pastor.

Pineview Church, Clinton (Hinds-Madison): May 6-9; Sunday, 10:15 a.m. and 7 p.m.; Mon.-Wed., 7 p.m.; David Miller, director of missions, Little Red River Association, Heber Springs, Ark., evangelist; Bill Williams, Heber Springs, Ark., music evangelist; Benton Preston, pastor.

Names in the news

Levon Moore of Kosciusko has just completed a 6½ month interim pastorate at McAdams Church in Attala Association. Moore, former director of missions for the Attala Association and retired since 1985, is available for pulpit supply and interim pastoral work.



Chester Swor arrives on the Clarke College campus escorted by J. B. Costilow and BSU president Chris Adcock. Swor was guest speaker for chapel services on April 4.



Barrett

Riverhill Church, Itawamba County, recently licensed **Timmy Swayne Barrett** to the gospel ministry. He is available for supply and interim pastor and may be contacted at 842-8653 or Route 5, Fulton, MS 38843.

Summer camps in Poland reach non-Baptists

WARSAW, POLAND — Polish Baptists are successfully using children's camps to reach new families. During the two-month period of July and August in 1989, the Polish Baptist Union sponsored 13 children's camps at six different locations.

More than one-third of the nearly 600 children who participated in the two-week camps were from non-Baptist families. The parents of 223 out of 584 children were from families in which there are no Baptists.

A total of 195 Baptist church members staffed the camps, often using their holidays. One of the camps was organized for children from state orphanages, another for children from poor Catholic families.

Thirty-six out of 56 Baptist churches in Poland offered financial support for this camp programme.

U.S. Moslems intensify missionary efforts

NEW YORK, N.Y. (EP) — Islamic organizations in the United States are intensifying their missionary efforts, according to a report by the Information Service of the German Evangelical Alliance.

The American Council of Mosques decided at a recent meeting in New York to prepare the way for a nationwide "proclamation crusade." As part of this drive, more Islamic literature will be produced to aid in promoting the Koran, the Moslem holy book.

The president of the Islamic Society of North America, Ahmad Zaki Ahmad, reported that last year 300 Muslim preachers were graduated from Islamic theological colleges in the U.S. They are now working for the "Dawa" (mission) organization among non-Moslems. Also in 1989, 42 private Islamic schools opened in the U.S.

There are about eight million Moslems in the U.S. Most of the 242 million people in the U.S. are Christians: 79 million are Protestants, 53 million Roman Catholics, and four million Orthodox. There are also 5.8 million Jews and 100,000 Buddhists.

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Honest prayer can produce renewed commitment

LIFE AND WORK

By Wayne Campbell
Jeremiah 12:1, 5; 20:7-11

Abraham Lincoln once told the following story: A frontier traveler found himself in wild and unfamiliar territory as night came. He was further disoriented by a terrible thunderstorm. The occasional lightning flashes provided the only clue to the path he was attempting to follow. As the thunder crashed around him, one bolt seemed to move the earth beneath him and brought him to his knees. Not being by habit a praying man, his petition was brief and to the point: "Oh, Lord! If it's all the same to you, give us a little more light and a little less noise!"


Campbell

Jeremiah's prayers were equally pointed and honest. In our lesson text the prophet cries out for God to shine the light of divine explanation upon his situation.

Jeremiah was troubled by an apparent inconsistency between what he knew of God's nature and what he saw around him. The prophet's support of Josiah's reforms and his denunciation of the idolatrous practices in the land had earned him the wrath of priests, neighbors, and family members as well.

God's response to Jeremiah's complaint begins with a strange kind of consolation (12:5). What Jeremiah has experienced has happened, not despite his faithfulness to God, but because of it. Indeed, the resistance he has received is an indication that he is serving God's purpose. But the worst is yet to come, and God wants Jeremiah to be prepared. Surely, honest communication with God is essential in preparing for such times.

Jeremiah doubtless did not like the answer God gave, yet it was the answer he needed. In honest prayer, we are open to receive God's response, even when it is not what we expect or desire. For while honesty in prayer may give expression to doubts and questions, it is based on the premise that God is both righteous and wise.

Have you ever noticed in the gospel records, how often Jesus' replies to inquiries don't quite seem to address the stated question? Why is this? Simply because our Lord knows the questioner as well as the question. And sometimes the response the inquirer needs is not the one the question seems to call for.

There are some concerns, some burdens, hurts, and disappointments that we cannot share with anyone but the Lord. There are some questions we do not feel free to express in the presence of anyone else. But there is no subject that is taboo with God. For as Jeremiah noted (12:3), God already knows all our thoughts and feelings. We need not fear that God will disown us or that we will embarrass him by our frankness.

The complaint voiced by Jeremiah in 20:7-8 follows a beating and a night in the stocks at the command of the priest Pashur after Jeremiah has prophesied that God will break the nation as an earthen jar and will defile it as the valley of Gehenna (ch. 19). Here Jeremiah charges God with having deceived and overpowered him. Instead of the reward of seeing his words fulfilled, the prophet has received insult and reproach.

Jeremiah is essentially accusing God of not playing fair. Despite his faithfulness to God, Jeremiah sees neither obedience nor judgment. Furthermore, when Jeremiah had attempted to quit prophesying, he found that his silence brought him no relief. In fact, the second brand of misery was worse than the first.

Although no divine reply is recorded at this point, having vented his frustrations to God, Jeremiah finds reassurance of God's presence and power. In that assurance, he obviously found the renewed sense of purpose to keep him going.

Opposition, frustration, ridicule. All of these can tempt a person to want to give up. But God, who knows all we face, knows also how to lead us through it. And in the process, his purpose is served and his servants grow. Even when the answers we get are not the ones we seek, honest prayer can produce renewed confidence and commitment. Therefore, we need not be hesitant to tell God our feelings about the dark or to ask him his light on the path.

Campbell is pastor, Chunky Church, Chunky.

"If not Christ, then to whom shall we go?"

BIBLE BOOK

By N. Allan Moseley
Hebrews 8:1-10:18

For a contemporary reader of the New Testament, it is easy to overlook the importance of the sacrificial system to first-century Jews. The religion of Judaism was centered in Jerusalem, and the reason Jerusalem was important was the presence of the temple. The reason the temple was so significant was that it was the place of sacrifice. It was the place prescribed by divine decree in the Old Testament as the place where sins were atoned for by means of sacred sacrificial rites.


Moseley

Only slowly did the first Christians begin to realize that the sacrifices and, therefore, the temple were made unnecessary by Christ. These early Christians continued to frequent the temple even after the coming of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost (Acts 2:46; 3:1). However, with each passing day and with each act of persecution of Christians by the Jews, the chasm between Christians and the vestiges of the old covenant grew wider and wider. The followers of Christ saw that their Savior had established a new covenant that superseded the former covenant.

Still, there are Christians for whom it was difficult to make the break with the old ways. One of the recurring themes in Hebrews is that the recipients of this letter were struggling with the implications of their salvation in Christ as it related to putting the past aside. It would have been easy for them to make a good case. There was much in Judaism that was good: the moral law, the cleansing rites, the provision for sin, and monotheism. Possibly they concluded, "Why throw out the baby with the bath water? Let's not over-react. Jesus is the Savior, but why leave behind these good religious traditions? We can be good Christians and good Jews at the same time."

In that kind of reasoning and living, these Hebrew Christians failed to understand the nature of Christ, his death on the cross, and his salvation. For them, the good of the past had become the enemy of the best of the present and future. Therefore, they are remaining spiritual babies (5:11-13), neglecting their salvation, and incurring the judgment of God (2:2-3). The writer was concerned that they were in danger of drifting away (2:1; 6:6), and not holding fast to Christ (3:6, 14; 4:14).

Also, the writer painstakingly demonstrates how Christ and his covenant are superior and therefore, deserve deep and undivided loyalty. Christ is superior to the angels (ch. 1), to Moses (ch. 3), and to Melchizedec (ch. 7). Now, in chapters 8-10, there are several additional contrasts between the old covenant and the new covenant in Christ.

First, the writer establishes **the contrast between the old, obsolete covenant and the new covenant** (8:6-13). He locates the genesis of Christ's new covenant in an Old Testament promise found in Jeremiah 31 (8:8-12). Even in the period when the old covenant was still in effect, the need was seen for something more.

A second contrast is between heavenly things and their earthly copies. The tabernacle, the law, and the holy place were visual, physical representations of heavenly, spiritual realities (8:5, 9:1, 11, 23-24; 10:1). The law was only "a shadow of good things to come, and not the very image of the things" (10:1; c.f. 1:3). The holy place was a figure, of which "the presence of God" was the reality (9;24).

Another contrast is between the flesh and the conscience (9:9-10, 13-14). The old covenant supplied temporary regulations for the cleansing of physical things (vss. 10, 13), but it did not change the conscience (vss. 9, 14). However, Christ can "purge your conscience from dead works to serve the living God" (vs. 14).

The fourth contrast in these chapters has to do with the frequency of sacrifices (9:6, 12, 25-28; 10;1-2, 10-12, 14). The priests of the old covenant offered sacrifices "continually" (10:1), but Christ offered himself only once. The reason the old covenant sacrifices had to be repeated was that they did not perfect anyone (10;1-2); they were a "remembrance" of sins (10:3; c.f. Gal. 3:19-29). Christ's sacrifice does perfect, so the only time he will appear again will be at his second coming, and that will be "without reference to sin" (9:28, NASB).

Another contrast is that the old sacrificial system used the blood of animals, but the new covenant was initiated by the blood of Christ (9:12-23). Blood was necessary for the establishment of both covenants (9:15-23), but the blood of animals was only the physical shadow of what Christ himself was able to do by changing the conscience (9:13-14).

A last contrast is that the old covenant was ineffective, but the new covenant is effective (8:7; 10:4, 10-14). If the first covenant had been "faultless," there would have been no need for the second covenant (8:7). The writer emphatically asserts that the sacrificial system of the temple could not take away sins, but the sacrifice of Jesus can.

There could not be a stronger argument for the sufficiency and pre-eminence of Christ and his covenant. The intended result was that the Hebrews fully embrace Christ and not begin to fall away. In the words of Peter, if we drift away from Christ, "To whom shall we go?" (John 6:68)

Moseley is pastor, First Church, Durham, NC (formerly of Bayou View, Gulfport).

John takes a practical approach to the subject of love

UNIFORM

By Tommy Vinson
I John 3:11-24

"Love is a many splendored thing!" "Love makes the world go around!" "Love means never having to say you're sorry!" These are but a few of the many slogans which today herald the magnificence of love. We hear them in songs. We read them on colorful bumper stickers. The problem is — talk is cheap. Love is easier defined on paper than displayed in life. Perhaps the popularity of the cheap pseudo-love novel today is a testimony to the scarcity of real love in real life. It seems that people are so starved for love that often they grab for the first thing that even remotely resembles love. What a great opportunity this presents to the church today to step in and fill that emotional void.


Vinson

In our text, John takes a practical approach to the subject of love. He chooses to describe it rather than define it. First, we see love as proof of our sonship (vss. 11-15). He has just finished presenting righteous living as an indication that one possesses salvation (vs. 10). He now adds to that the proof of love. John is saying that until believers learn to love each other, we will never be able to convince a lost world that we love them. The pagan world's observation of the early church was summarized in the statement: "See how they love one another." Could that be said of us today? Too often the spirit of Cain is more evident than the spirit of Abel (vs. 12). While Cain and Abel shared a common human family, they were members of different spiritual families. Envy and jealousy have no place among those who claim to know the Saviour. Do you love other believers? Then let this assure your heart toward God. When people are saved, they don't have to take a study course on "how to love the brethren."

Next, we see that this love which proves our salvation is also patterned after the life of Christ (vss. 16-18). His love was sacrificial (vs. 16). He laid down his life as an ultimate expression of his love. Unlike Cain who was known for taking a life, Jesus Christ was known for giving his life. Too often the family of faith emulates Cain rather than Christ. We are frequently more concerned with what we can get than with what we can give. Self-preservation may be the first law of physical life, but self-sacrifice is the first law of spiritual life. It is fairly easy to close our eyes and sing choruses extolling God's love, but it is costly to get involved in the lives of wounded and hurting people (vs. 18). It might even disrupt our schedule!

This sacrificial love is also very simple (vs. 17). It basically involves being sensitive to the needs of the people which God puts in the normal traffic pattern of our life. In the well known story of the Prodigal Son (Luke 15:21-24), the father didn't merely welcome the son back with winsome words. He also attended to his every need from clothes to food. This kind of love requires action. Peter Lord says, "What we believe, we act upon. Everything else is just religious talk."

Lastly, this love provides us with a basis of assurance (vss. 19-24). Usually when love is missing, assurance is also missing. When our love for God and others is as it should be, we have confidence before God in prayer (vss. 21, 22). Often our timidity in coming boldly before the throne of God can be traced to unloving attitudes which we have allowed to take up residence in our hearts. Confidence goes out when sin comes in. As a high schooler, I wrecked our family car. My relationship with my dad cooled for several days. Needless to say, during that period of time I did not ask for any special favors. I avoided him more than I approached him. The same principle is true in our spiritual life.

Vinson is pastor, Crossgates Church, Brandon.

Pastors learn how to build witnessing relationships

Twenty-one pastors completed "Building Witnessing Relationships" training in Laurel, led by the Home Mission Board and the state Evangelism Department. BWR is a new training process that teaches personal soul-winners attitudes and actions to develop the trust of lost people and enhance their receptivity to the gospel.

"God has richly blessed the evangelistic emphasis of Southern Baptists, but today we have 167 million lost people in America and we are losing ground," said Guy Henderson, director, state Evangelism Department. "We are not winning America to Christ and everything must be done to equip our people to share the gospel."

The BWR participants visited in homes one afternoon and evening and won 14 people to Christ. They were given marked New Testaments and encouraged to share the message with family and friends.

The national seminar was held in West Laurel Church, Laurel, Rod Smith, pastor.

THE VILLAGE VIEW

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Gifts of Honor and Memory

A portion of the Village View is allocated each month to a list of Gifts of Honor and Memory. Many groups and individuals elect to pay tribute to others through this sensitive, meaningful and helpful medium. This feature is hopefully designed to further honor, with taste and respect, those who are and have been special to our special friends.

January 1, 1990 - January 31, 1990

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Mr. & Mrs. James A. Kidd
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Mr. & Mrs. Sam T. Carter
Mr. Ted Young
Mr. & Mrs. Sam T. Carter
Naomi Young
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Feb. 1, 1990 - Mar. 31, 1990

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Mr. & Mrs. Douglas Aultman
Mr. R. R. Abney
Mr. Nobie S. Read & Family
Mr. Charlie Abraham, Jr.
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We're Giving Hope!

The Psalmist prayed "FOR THOU, O GOD, ART MY HOPE, MY TRUST, O LORD, FROM MY YOUTH".

Psalm 71:5

What was it that the Psalmist feared? Insecurity, loneliness and neglect. He was unable to protect himself . . . and afraid . . . so he asked the Lord to be his rock of refuge, his strong fortress. Within his prayer was a desire to have his dignity and self-worth preserved.

For 93 years Mississippi Baptists have provided that rock of refuge, that safe fortress for children caught in the grip of insecurity, loneliness and neglect.

To take away their fears and instill hope for the future, children are provided the type of care that best meets their needs through The Baptist Children's Village.

Through your Mother's Day Offering you will have a part in ministering to the physical, emotional and spiritual needs of over 600 different boys and girls during the next year.



WE CAN REACH OUR $230,000 MOTHER'S DAY OFFERING GOAL:

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- **CHALLENGE EVERY SUNDAY SCHOOL MEMBER** — Give Something.
- **CHALLENGE ADULTS** — Give the price of a dinner.
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BECOME THE SOURCE OF A CHILD'S HOPE FOR THE FUTURE!

You may give your Mother's Day gift through your church or

Mail it directly to:
The Baptist Children's Village
P. O. Box 27
Clinton, MS 39060-0027

Blackwater celebrates 150 years



Blackwater Church



Blackwater's two oldest members, Stennis Quinnelly and Winter Pace, are recognized during the day's celebration.

By Bob Egbert

The Spirit of the Lord was felt by those who attended the sesquicentennial celebration at Blackwater Church, Kemper Association, which took place on April 8.

The 300-plus attendees consisted of current members, former members, visitors, friends, and former pastors and staff members. The auditorium was filled to standing-room-only capacity for the all-day meeting. The fellowship was great, and memories flowed freely.

The two oldest members of the current membership, Stennis Quinnelly and Winter Pace, were honored by a special announcement of their long and faithful service. Words of praise and appreciation were showered on them throughout the day. They were among the last to leave after a long day of activities.

The social committee did an excellent job under leadership of the co-chairpersons, Mary Otis Brown and Seleta Egbert. The committee fed over 300 people without a single known complaint. The food was delicious, and everyone had plenty to eat.

The congregational singing, the special music, the messages, the testimonies, and the reflections from former pastors and staff members contributed to a beautiful day in the Lord. We all glimpsed a sample of what heaven must be like. The time passed so quickly. The day was over before anyone really got tired. Even the small children were still going strong at the end of the day.

So many friends and so many memories, but try as we may, it all had to come to an end. Solomon said it so well in Proverbs 16:24, "Pleasant words are as an honeycomb, sweet to the soul and health to the bones." Happy birthday, Blackwater! May your light continue to shine.

Egbert was a member of the Sesquicentennial Committee at Blackwater Church.



Dinner on the grounds draws large crowd.



First Church, Sunizona, Arizona



The North Delta men who went to Arizona: First Row — Ellis Gazway, Crowder; Harrison Brown, Rena Lara; Wesley Nicholas, Clarksdale; Malcolm Ashcraft, Lyon; Jonathan Dancy, Lambert. Second Row: Silas Clements, Charleston; Hamp Little, Charleston; Jack Calvert, Crowder; Joe Weeks, Clarksdale. Third Row: Richmond Counts, Lula; Joel Stroud, Lyon; John Purvis, Rena Lara; Bobby Shields, Crowder; Max Schiele Jr., Crowder. John Purvis, pastor of Rena Lara Church, is the associational Brotherhood director; M. C. Johnson is director of missions.

North Delta men build church in Sunizona, Arizona

A team of volunteers from North Delta Assocation in Mississippi went to First Church, Sunizona, Ariz. in February to help build a new sanctuary.

The men did in four days what it probably would have taken the church four months to do with its own resources, said an Arizonan. Men from seven Mississippi churches went. There were pastors, farmers, and a fireman; some were retired.

One of the men commented that they probably got more out of these mission trips than the churches did. He said that they have had men accept Christ after going on one of the trips.

Not only did the men of the Sunizona church rub shoulders and work with the Baptist men of Mississippi. During the week the women of First Church, Sunizona, cooked and served lunches and suppers. Nobody went hungry. In fact, someone reported, the food was so good that everybody finished the week a couple of pounds heavier.

When the men had finished their last day of work there, one said. "We've been in a lot of churches in a lot of places; but this church was the friendliest, warmest, and most generous people we have ever met." When they got into their van to leave, there were some wet eyes on both sides.

A representative of First Church, Sunizona, wrote, "We would like to thank not only the men from Mississippi, but also their churches for letting them come. Thanks to Paynes Church in Charleston, Rena Lara Church, Lyon Church, Crowder Church, First Church of Lambert, Lula Church, and Cherry Street Church in Clarksdale."

Sunglow Mission Ranch opened its doors to these men and gave them a place to stay.

When the team arrived, only the shell of the building was up. They put up partitions, built a platform, did electrical work, put up and finished sheet rock, and installed lighting fixtures.

The North Delta Association paid the transportation expenses. The men traveled in vans provided by Crowder and Lyon churches.

Carl Russell, pastor, Sunizona Church, said these men saved them several thousand dollars in labor construction costs.

Devotional

I remember mama

By P. J. Scott

I applied mine heart to know, and to search and to seek out wisdom . . . . Behold, this have I found, saith the preacher, counting one by one, to find out the account: which yet my soul seeketh, but I find not: one man among a thousand have I found; but a woman among all those have I not found (Ecclesiastes 7:25a, 27-28).

This is a tremendous indictment. The preacher of Ecclesiastes seems to have been on a treasure hunt in search of a wise person. He could not find "one woman in a thousand" who sought diligently after wisdom.



Scott

As I read this passage and contemplated his thought, my maternal grandmother came to mind. While I must confess to being prejudiced up front, Mama (Mrs. George Speck Sr.) was an exceedingly wise woman to me as a lad growing up on a farm in Union County, Miss., in the 1940s and 1950s. Having reared eight children during the Depression, she had learned to cope with circumstances that life cast upon her. I was greatly impressed with her varied abilities, not the least of which was to retrieve a couple of vanilla wafers for me when our preacher went on a bit too long for my childish patience to endure.

My greatest memory of Mama was her intense desire to teach me the Scriptures. There were many lazy afternoons spent on the front porch of the small farm house with her teaching me the Word of God. I can remember her telling me that when she saw one of her sons or grandsons in the ministry she would be ready to meet the Lord. I am thankful to have been the answer to her prayers.

Many years have come and gone since those childhood experiences. After spending much of my adult life in college and seminary, I have not found anything that has surpassed the teachings of Mama's simple faith. She helped me to discover a relationship with Jesus Christ that has stood the test of time and is firm for eternity.

The preacher of Ecclesiastes confessed that he could not find one wise person in a thousand. To me, Mama was more than one in a thousand. She was a bright and shining light in a dark world.

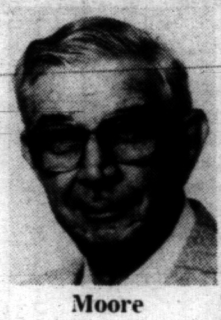
Scott is pastor, First Church, Olive Branch.

Missionary news

Donald and Teresa Bolls, missionaries to the Niger Republic, are on the field and may be addressed at BP 10038, Niamey, Niger Republic. He is a native of Jackson. She is the former Teresa Downey of Grady, N.M.

Elton and Dottie Gray, missionaries to Japan, are in the States and may be addressed at 806 Cedar Ridge Dr., Little Rock, AR 72211. He is a native of Loretto, Tenn., and she is the former Dottie Eavenson of Marks.

Southern Baptist emeritus missionary Walter Moore died of cancer April 14 in Mena, Ark. He was a missionary doctor for 28 years in Nigeria and Ghana. Beyond hospital work, he had been active in preventive medicine and health education. In 1979, for example, he vaccinated 50,000 people to combat a measles epidemic in Ghana.



Moore

Baptist Record
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May 3, 1990

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